

SPORTS REVIEW SERIES

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WRESTLING'S

GREATEST BATTLES

**THE MAN WHO MADE
SUPERSTAR
GRAHAM
BACK
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BY A MADMAN!**

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That's because I'm afraid that if you tell anyone about the simple secret of good luck before you start using it, they might be able to talk you out of it. They will try to tell you that there is just no way to be so lucky all at once.

But there is.

And, I'm sure that if you try it privately for just two weeks — no one will ever be able to talk you out of it then.

Before I go on, I'd like to tell you that I'm not a miracle worker or a mystic of any kind.

I'm a businessman.

A short time ago, I was a businessman who was extremely unlucky. Not anymore.

I'm still not the richest man in the world — or the most successful in love — but finally, after years of miserable luck in everything — I feel like the luckiest man in New York.

It's wonderful.

For years I played Bingo, entered Contests, Lotteries and Sweepstakes — tried to find true Happiness, Love and Affection. I was a typical loser at everything.

Then, by accident, I stumbled onto the real secret of great good luck. The very first time I played Bingo after I discovered my secret I hit a Jackpot Bingo for \$373.

I discovered the secret in a tiny antique shop in my neighborhood — a lovely combination pendant/key chain in the form of a Lucky Horseshoe. It was finished in gleaming 14k gold — and my heart practically stopped when I spotted it.

The shopkeeper told me the history of the amulet — how for hundreds of



years men and women have believed with all their hearts and souls that the golden Lucky Horseshoe had the mystic power to bring riches beyond belief, unlimited love and affection, supreme happiness — to all who used it.

I felt I had found the answer — the true secret of good luck — and I bought the one-of-a-kind Lucky Horseshoe for over a hundred dollars.

I started to use it at once. I started to win at Bingo consistently — to win Contests and Lotteries — to find the Happiness, Joy and Love I had been seeking for so very long.

When my friends saw that I had become "the luckiest man in town" they asked me to give them my secret. Since I had now found everything in life I wanted — I decided to give it to them.

I had a master jeweler create five exact copies of my golden Lucky Horseshoe — three as key chains with proper attachments for keys — two as pendants — complete with matching golden chains. I gave them as gifts to my five closest friends.

It worked for them, too!

Now, you and I both know that there's a great deal of money to be made for the person who comes up with the true secret of good luck — a secret that really works. I am certain that I have done just that.

But, was the astounding good fortune brought to me and my friends a fluke? Perhaps there was something "special" about us that made the golden Lucky Horseshoe so very powerful. I don't believe that for a moment.

However, I MUST PROVE IT!

For, once I prove that my golden Lucky Horseshoe works — really works — I will offer it to all men and women who want and need great good luck — for \$15 — and it will be worth every penny of it. (How many times have you said to yourself that you'd pay a for-

tune for something that really works?)

So, to prove that my golden Lucky Horseshoe works for ALL men and women — I'll send you either the pendant or the key chain for little more than the cost of making it up.

Remember, I'm willing to do this for my own selfish reason. Once YOU have become a Winner — once YOU find all the Money you need — once YOU have all the Love, Joy, Happiness and Affection you want — I'll probably make a mint when I offer the PROVEN amulet to the general public.

But, you must make me a promise. You must let me know your good luck results. This will be the proof I need!

I feel certain that it makes no difference whether you are a man or a woman (it works for both) — no difference if you are young or old — and even if you have until today always considered yourself unlucky — your golden Lucky Horseshoe MUST work for you or it won't cost you a single penny.

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WRESTLING'S GREATEST BATTLES

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INTRODUCTION

ONCE AGAIN, we proudly present this special edition magazine, featuring the best of the best—stories about the greatest matches in wrestling history. And this collection is greater than any we have ever done before!

This is your best opportunity to relive many of the most important moments in wrestling. The superstars of the sport are all featured here, in stories about their greatest exploits. No true wrestling fan can afford to miss this.

Everyone knows how treacherous Rock Riddle can be. But he really outdid himself in *Rock Riddle's Boast: "I'm Tired of Beating Nobodies!"* Read this story carefully, and be prepared to get outraged at Riddle. It always happens!

Dusty Rhodes' fans should be very interested in *The American Dream Hits a German Roadblock*. Fans who have followed the progress of Dusty's career remember all too well this critical time. Many experts believe this was a very special point in Dusty's life. If he had not survived this, he would not have gone on to greater fame and glory.

In *War Between the Blondes*, girl wrestling is given a complete examination. No other story has ever looked so closely at this segment of the sport. And no other story has had so interesting a tale to tell.

When we first printed *Bruno vs. Duncum—The Bloody Feud Is Over*, the reader response was overwhelming. Everyone rejoiced in seeing this story. There had been so much bloodshed in this particular feud. Its ending was heralded throughout the wrestling community. To enjoy the story now, it is necessary to remember the environment in which it was first published. Thankfully, things have changed since then.

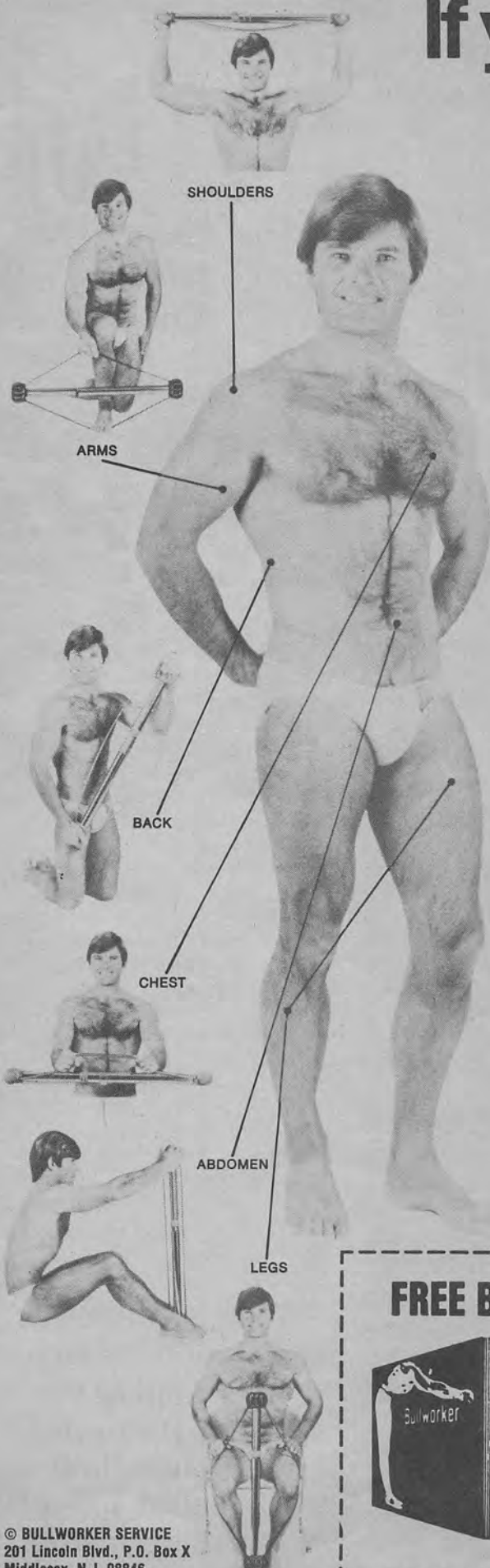
To this day, we still receive requests for us to reprint *Stop It, Bobby! You're Committing Suicide!* We must admit this was a strange story, and is definitely worth reading for a second time.!

Chief Jay Strongbow Waited 3 Years for This Match, and many people say it was well worth it. Why did Jay wait so long? How did he finally get his man? What was the significance of this match to Jay's career? All these questions are answered in this magnificent story.

Ever since they entered the sport, Ivan Putski and Mighty Igor have been accused of being the same person. Impossible? Not if you read *Putski and Igor Are Provin' Confusin'*. Though this story tries to quell these rumors once and for all, in the end no one is sure if Igor and Ivan are two different people or whether they are the same person. Or is it that he is two

(Continued on page 46)

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**ROCK RIDDLE'S
BOAST:**

"I'M TIRED OF BEATING NOBODIES!"



REPORTERS FILLED THE dressing room. Rock Riddle had summoned them. He had something he wanted the world to hear.

"Thank you for coming, gentleman," he began, "although I deserve no less. Every word from my mouth is an historic utterance. When I become the world's champion, these moments will take on great importance. And you gentlemen are lucky enough to be here.

"The reason you've been summoned to my presence is that I want the world to know what has happened. I have been kept from wrestling the best in my profession because the top men in the sport are terrified of me. They know I can beat them handily and will humiliate them in front of their foolish fans. If these cowards had their way, I'd never wrestle again.

"However, the fans are too intelligent not to appreciate my genius. They demand my presence in the

(Continued on page 10)

**Rock Riddle is
proclaiming his victory
over Raul Mata
as the first stepping
stone on his climb to
the greatest heights
in wrestling history!**

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ROCK RIDDLE

(Continued from Page 8)



After throwing Mata to the canvas, Riddle leaps high in the air to smash Raul with his own version of painful elbow smash (above). Somehow, Mata manages to get back on his knees, only to have Rock karate chop him between the shoulder blades (below). Riddle proved himself merciless when there's a helpless victim!



arenas. You could no easier exclude me than exclude the sun!

"The result is I'm forced to grapple against the most incompetent competition the promoters can find. I've met more guys on a return trip to nowhere than anyone else in the sport's history. And I want the world to know I'm tired of wrestling nobodies!

"Beginning today, I demand class competition. I want championship contenders. My career has floundered in a sea of non-entities long enough. If my calibre of opponent doesn't change damn quick, then there's going to be hell to pay! I'll let the promoters figure out what I'll do."

No one wanted to call Riddle's bluff. Promoters were well aware of Riddle's

devious imagination. Instead of daring to make good his threat, they scheduled him to wrestle Raul Mata, one of the most accomplished wrestlers in the area. Riddle was elated with the match-up.

"This will prove I'm the greatest human who ever entered an arena!" Riddle crowed before the match. "Welcome to the era of Rock Riddle!"

In the opening moments of the match, it looked more like the swan song of Rock Riddle. Mata showed his veteran savvy and skill by tossing Riddle around the ring almost at will. Yet, Rock is a very determined young man.



Riddle tortures Raul Mata in a Boston crab late in the match, proving his skill and cruelty.

As an act of will more than anything else, Riddle turned the momentum of the match around. He refused to let Mata dominate. And he didn't care what kind of tactics he employed to win.

The match wore on and Riddle began to use dirtier and more vicious tactics. Mata has taken shots from the best and managed to survive—until this night. But a roundhouse right to Raul's temple sent the popular mat star sprawling.

At this point, Riddle was on top of him with slamming elbows, fists, and feet. It was a display of cruelty which sickened almost every spectator.

After the match, Mata declared, "Riddle wants a battle. Well, the next time we meet, he'll learn what it's like to be in a brawl. I want his head!"

Rock Riddle may yet yearn again for the nobodies. An angry Raul Mata is no one to look forward to wrestling!

□

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Builds bulging crushing power into your forearms and grip! Just five minutes a day is all it takes to develop the powerful finger, hand, and forearm muscles needed for karate, judo, many other sports and work activities. Use it anywhere, anytime, to build sledgehammer power into your grip. Weighs just 6 oz.

\$11.98 COMPLETE WITH "KILLER KARATE" SELF-DEFENSE COURSE & INSTRUCTIONS



Let Joe Weider—Trainer of "Mr. America" and "Mr. Universe" since 1946—help you achieve the body you've always wanted with these exclusive **"WEIDER WILDCATS!"**



fitness jogger

LIKE AN "INDOOR TRACK!"

Slim down, trim up! Lose pounds and inches from your waist, hips, and thighs by jogging in your own home! Improves stamina, heart and lung action. Thick polyurethane cushion simulates actual road conditions. Lightweight, compact.

\$12.98 COMPLETE WITH COURSE OF INSTRUCTIONS



power twister

MUSCULARIZES UPPER BODY

The upper body muscularizer used by top athletes and bodybuilders to add powerful inches to arms, chest, shoulders and back—then keep them there for life! Unique "Continuous Tension/Ulimate Muscle Contraction" feature also insures power growth. Just 10 minutes a day and you are on your way to a powerful, muscular upper body! Durable chromed steel with "No-Slip" rubber grippers.



\$14.98 COMPLETE WITH DETAILED UPPER-BODY BUILDING COURSE

waist shaper

FOR SLIMMER-LOOKING WAIST, HIPS!

Look instantly slimmer the moment you slip it on. Helps build perspiration around waistline and hips while you exercise. Included is nutrition guide and 10-minute exercise routine to help you reduce that flabby waistline in 2 weeks. Beige or blue and a full 12-inches wide, it may be worn under regular street clothes! Miraculous aid to looking slimmer!



\$14.98 COMPLETE WITH ILLUSTRATED "WAIST SLIMMER" COURSE

pocket exerciser

COMPACT UPPER BODY EXERCISER

Our most portable, pocket-sized upper body builder! Weighs just 4 ounces! Works amazingly (in your spare time) to develop powerful chest, back, and shoulders. Doubles as efficient leg exerciser. Truly the "Mighty Mite!" Keep one at the office, another at home. **\$3.98 COMPLETE WITH COURSE OF INSTRUCTIONS**



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"Trainer of Champions Since 1936"
P.O. BOX 3725 LF/802MU
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90212



Dear Joe: I want to get that masculine look! Please ship me the equipment & courses checked below. Also, the BONUS \$3.50 value muscle building magazine. Full payment enclosed.

- ☐ SUPER-WEIGHT-GAIN FORMULA #7 *\$17.98
- ☐ SUPER-STRENGTH BUILDER *\$18.98
- ☐ "THE PANTHER" SUIT *\$41.98
- Sizes: ☐ S 25-31, ☐ M 32-38, ☐ L 39-46
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- Sizes: ☐ S 25-31, ☐ M 32-38, ☐ L 39-46
- ☐ POCKET EXERCISER *\$ 3.98

*Sent freight collect.

TOTAL \$

California residents add 6% sales tax.

Add \$1.00 per item for postage and handling, unless shipped collect. \$

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No COD's please.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

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Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

BONUS!

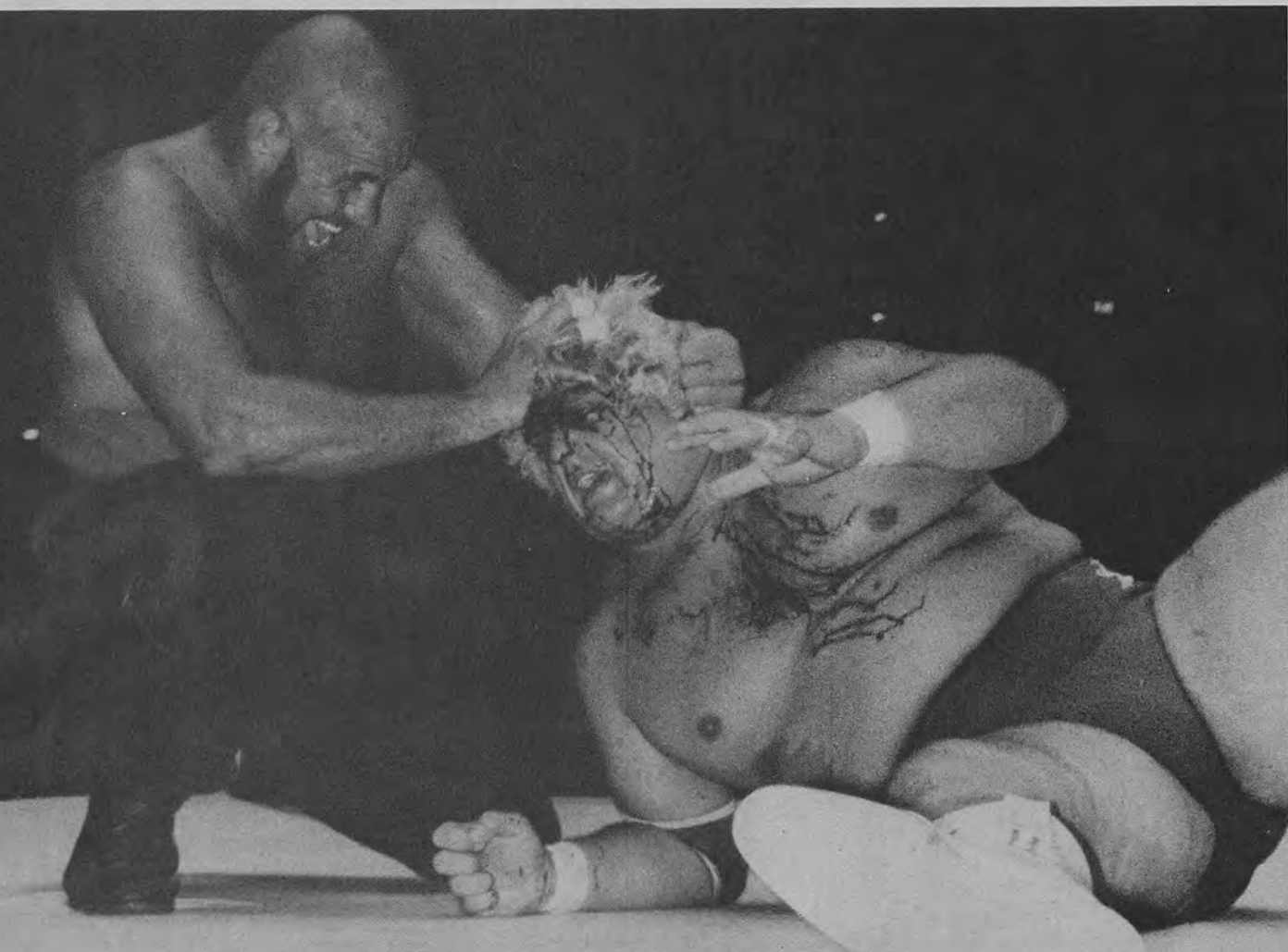
\$3.50 WORTH OF POWER-PACKED MAGAZINES!

THESE MAGAZINES AVAILABLE AT NEWSSTANDS AT \$1.75

Jammed with complete courses on muscularizing and shaping your body! Specific tips to build bigger arms, broader shoulders, deeper chest, slimmer waist, and powerful legs. Sex appeal and virility-building information, too! ALL A BONUS TO YOU with any purchase!



THE "AMERICAN DREAM"



Using his fearsome clawhold, Killer Karl Krupp widens the gash on Dusty Rhodes' forehead.

HITS A GERMAN ROADBLOCK

PHOTOS BY DON DELEON

Dusty Rhodes sees 1976 as the year of "The American Dream." Can Killer Karl Krupp destroy Dusty's hopes?

FANS ALL OVER the world are hoping that this year will finally see Dusty Rhodes, "The American Dream," become the wrestling champion of the world. But one obstacle stands in this path to glory—Killer Karl Krupp.

The German grappler has been called one of the cruelest figures in the wrestling world today. Few men in the

sport's history have been as skilled as Krupp has been in the use of dirty tactics. Even the most observant referee is helpless to spot these cunning moves. It is not until the victim is gushing blood that the referee suspects Krupp did anything illegal.

Few wrestlers are willing to get into a battle with the German. Only a man with Rhodes' courage would even dare

to sign for a match against Krupp. But to survive an actual encounter with Krupp takes more than courage.

However, Rhodes had a very private reason for taking this dangerous match.

"I fully intend," Dusty declared, "to be the champion in this year of the Bicentennial! The greatest will be the one and only 'American Dream,' myself! And when I become champion, I'll choose my opponents from those who can bring me more honor during my reign.

"To recognize Karl Krupp as a

(Continued on page 44)

Let Joe Weider build you a better body for just \$7.98

Get my new \$18.98 "Power-X" Muscle Up kit for only \$7.98...while they last!

This giant kit features my famous "Power-X" Muscle Builder that can help you add inches of solid muscle to your arms, deepen your chest, broaden your shoulders, slim your waistline, powerize your legs and give you that muscular, handsome body you've always craved. All within the privacy of your own home. And that's only the beginning of what you'll be receiving in the mail for just \$7.98.

PLUS...My 4 Training Manuals — Spring, Summer, Winter and Fall — containing a whole year of exciting muscle-building "secrets" in 20 muscle-building courses.

PLUS...My Nutrition Guide, showing you how to eat either for gaining weight and muscles or slimming down.

PLUS...My Muscle Builder Magazine, where the Champs tell you — in detail — how they made it.

PLUS...A FREE \$5.00 Gift Certificate entitling you to purchase any of my famous muscle builders or food supplements.

AND, OF COURSE...My "Power-X" Muscle Builder. Proven to work by champions

My methods work. They have been proven time and again since 1936 — when I first started training champions. And since then, almost every Mr. America and Mr. Universe has been trained by me. The techniques I taught them, I can teach you, too. I'll show you how to avoid pitfalls, training errors and wasted time. I'll reveal the secrets of achieving one of the greatest-looking, most muscular bodies in the world. I'll put you on the exact training program I use for my Mr. America and Mr. Universe champions. And you'll find for yourself why I'm recognized throughout the muscle-building world as the greatest trainer of all time.

How can I make you this unbelievable shape-up offer?

Building stronger, fitter bodies is my life's work. I earn my living giving people the self-confidence that only comes from looking and being the best you can



My pupil, Franco Columbu, Mr. Universe winner, is muscling up with my Power-X...why not you?

be. And I believe that once I put you on that road to a better, more healthy, vigorous body, you'll want to try other Weider products, too. Like my muscle building food supplements, vitamins and minerals. Or the world famous Weider training equipment. And that's why I'm sending you all these materials at lower than my raw manufacturing, printing and distributing costs. At not one penny profit.

Use these SECRETS of the world's most famous muscle stars.

Let me introduce you to all the Mr. America and Mr. Universe champions I have trained. And in their own words, they'll reveal ■ "How I Built my 22½" Muscular Arms" by Arnold Schwarzenegger (Mr. Olympia); ■ "Power Training for Sprinters" by Joe Weider, Trainer of Champions; ■ "Add Inches of Muscle Power to Your Legs" by Franco Columbu (Mr. Olympia); ■ "Foods for Gaining Weight and Strength" by Frank Zane (Mr. Universe); ■ "My Shoulder-Broadening Course" by Steve Reeves (Mr. America); ■ "How to Build Speed and Power for Sports" by Ken Waller (Mr. Universe); ■ "Strong Man Stunts Made Easy"; ■ "How to Hand Balance"; ■ "Kung Fu and Karate"; ■ "Gain a Pound of Solid Muscle a Day"; ■ "12 Oriental Fighting Tricks"; plus much, much, much more!

HURRY! THIS OFFER MAY HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN AT ANY MOMENT BECAUSE OF RISING PRINTING, POSTAL, & MANUFACTURING COSTS!

Never again will you be able to get this special introductory offer. You get it all — everything I've just described to you on this page — for less than my costs. But hurry. This offer is good only while the supply lasts. ACT NOW! RIGHT THIS VERY MOMENT.



Joe proudly poses with his famous pupil, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. Olympia winner.

"Get there faster with Joe Weider!"

Send Only \$7.98 for my Muscle Building "Power-X" kit!



Hurry! Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime, never-to-be-repeated offer.

You'll never get another chance to get this \$18.98 kit — including my "Power-X" muscle builder, plus the 4 training manuals of champions, plus the Muscle Builder magazine, plus the Nutrition Guide, plus the FREE \$5.00 Gift Certificate — all for just \$7.98.

Joe Weider Dept. L F/802CMX

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with over 3,750,000 successful students

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Joe: I don't see how you can do it — but here's my \$7.98! (Plus \$1.00 for postage and handling.) Rush me my complete "Power-X" Kit, including the "Power-X" Muscle Builder, plus the Nutrition Guide, plus the Muscle Builder magazine, plus the first issue of your giant "Enter the Wonderful World of Joe Weider" Muscle Building Manual, plus a FREE \$5.00 Gift Certificate! I understand I will receive 3 additional Muscle Building Manuals during the year. (Calif. res. add 6% sales tax.) (Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.)

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ADDRESS.....
CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....
(Please print clearly)

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Rockville Centre, NY 11571

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Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Hobbies, other interests _____

Favorite Wrestler _____

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

I'd Like As My Pen Pal:

☐ Boys ☐ Girls ☐ Anyone

You Have My Permission To Print My
Picture. _____

Age _____

Signature Required
DO NOT PRINT



BANG NGUYEN (9)
137 S.E. Leach
Des Moines, IA 50315
Likes soccer. Terry
Funk his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



KAORU NAKAO (24)
5-3 Souen-cho Beppu-shi
Oita-Ken 874 Japan
Enjoys travel. Antonio
Inoki his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



ROB CLARK (11)
84 Woodrow Avenue
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Likes sports. Dusty
Rhodes his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



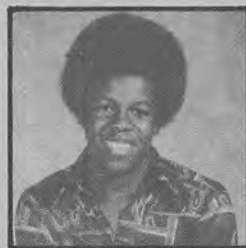
WAYNE TEXIERE (20)
Route 6 Box 16
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Likes sports. Dusty
Rhodes his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



REUBEN GARCIA (13)
709 Warburton
Yonkers, NY 10701
Enjoys track. Johnny
Rivera his favorite.
Likes good and bad
guys. Anyone for PP's.



NELSON GARCIA (11)
709 Warburton
Yonkers, NY 10701
Likes karate. Dos
Caros his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for PP's.



SEABORN DAVIS (14)
P.O. Box 335
Dearing, GA 30808
Enjoys basketball. Mr.
Wrestling II his favorite.
Likes good guys. Anyone
for pen pals.



CHARLES JUSTICE (15)
221 N. Myers
Burbank, CA 91506
Likes sports. Chavo
Guerrero his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Boys for pen pals.



GEORGE BENNETT (25)
211 Depot St.
Bennington, VT 05201
Enjoys baseball. Tony
Garea his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.



TIM SWARTZ (14)
121 Ivy St.
Jamestown, NY 14701
Enjoys bowling. Bruno
Sammartino his favorite.
Likes good and bad guys.
Girls for pen pals.



ALLEN BUCKNER (15)
410 Southwestern
Springfield, OH 45536
Likes football. Mil
Mascaras his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Girls for pen pals.



RICKY LEE (12)
143 North St.
Keene, NH 03431
Collects coins. Ivan
Putski his favorite.
Likes good guys.
Anyone for pen pals.

N PAIS



JENIFER CLARK (8)
84 Woodrow Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854
Enjoys baseball. Jay Strongbow her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.



ERNIE PALUMBO (13)
4241 Digney Ave.
Bronx, NY 10466
Likes basketball. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



BECKY THOMPSON (17)
Route 1 Box 230A
Walbala, SC 29691
Enjoys music. Paul Jones her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Boys for PP's.



JIM RABIDEAU (11)
800 Carney Blvd.
Marinette, WI 54143
Collects coins. Crusher his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for PP's.



DEBBIE CANNON (15)
19 Naomi Circle
Lantana, FL 33462
Enjoys bowling. Dusty Rhodes her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.



ANIBAL GARCIA (14)
709 Warburton
Yonkers, NY 10701
Enjoys track. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



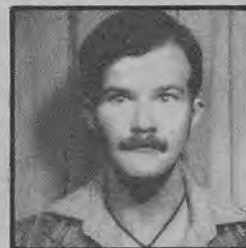
SHARON ANDREWS (16)
117 Dowling Ave.
Ozark, AL 36360
Likes baseball. Terry Funk her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



GLENN MINTER (13)
56 Florence Ave.
Denville, NJ 07834
Likes baseball. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



HELENE RUSHING (15)
Box 76
Adamsburg, PA 15611
Enjoys tennis. Bruno Sammartino her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



THOMAS TINNEMAN (28)
1211 Simonton Ave.
Miamisburg, OH 45342
Likes archery. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



SUSAN GARNER (14)
Route 1 Box 25
Whitesburg, GA 30185
Likes music. Dusty Rhodes her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.



MARK SAKIE (10)
224 Ohio Ave.
Shenandoah Hgts., PA 17976
Likes basketball. Jay Strongbow his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



DAVID CHRISTIAN (18)
1442 Stirling Drive
Wayne, PA 19087
Likes sports. Executioner #2 his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for pen pals.



LARRY KOBOJEK (16)
111 Main St.
Russell, PA 16345
Enjoys fishing. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Girls for PP's.



REGINALD BRYANT (13)
Route 1 Box 27A
Burgaw, NC 28425
Likes sports. Dusty Rhodes his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



CRAIG ELMENDORF (12)
East Fallkill Rd.
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Enjoys baseball. Jay Strongbow his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



BEN GRESCH (13)
Fallkill Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Likes baseball. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



ONEAL HOGGARD (10)
Route 2 Box 289
Colerain, NC 27924
Enjoys motorcycles. Mighty Igor his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.



CHERYL LINDSAY (12)
374 Manor Ave.
Penns Grove, NJ 08069
Likes to swim. Ivan Putski her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.



SEAN SZAJKOWSKI (10)
6138 Mulberry
Philadelphia, PA 19135
Enjoys bowling. Billy White Wolf his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.



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WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

- 1—BOB BACKLUND
- 2—MIL MASCARAS
- 3—DUSTY RHODES
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—KEN PATERA
- 6—SPIROS ARION
- 7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 8—PETER MAIVIA
- 9—TONY GAREA
- 10—LARRY ZBYSZKO

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

- 1—BILLY ROBINSON
- 2—RAY STEVENS
- 3—VERNE GAGNE
- 4—LARRY HENNIG
- 5—SUPER DESTROYER
- 6—JIM BRUNZELL
- 7—GREG GAGNE
- 8—BLACKJACK LANZA
- 9—BOBBY DUNCUM
- 10—ANGELO MOSCA

MOST POPULAR WRESTLERS

- 1—ANDRE THE GIANT
- 2—DUSTY RHODES
- 3—BOB BACKLUND
- 4—IVAN PUTSKI
- 5—MIL MASCARAS
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
- 8—JIMMY SNUKA
- 9—BILLY ROBINSON
- 10—RICK STEAMBOAT

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

- 1—ROCKY JOHNSON
- 2—TERRY FUNK
- 3—RIC FLAIR
- 4—DUSTY RHODES
- 5—DICK SLATER
- 6—PAUL JONES
- 7—LARS ANDERSON
- 8—JACK BRISCO
- 9—JIMMY SNUKA
- 10—RICK STEAMBOAT

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- 1—MR. FUJI & PROFESSOR TANAKA
- 2—RIC FLAIR & GREG VALENTINE
- 3—GREG GAGNE & JIM BRUNZELL
- 4—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
- 5—PAUL JONES & RICK STEAMBOAT
- 6—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
- 7—IVAN KOLOFF & MR. SAITO
- 8—JACK & JERRY BRISCO
- 9—CHIEF STRONGBOW & PETER MAIVIA
- 10—JOSE LOTHARIO & ALBERTO MADRIL

MOST HATED WRESTLERS

- 1—KEN PATERA
- 2—RIC FLAIR
- 3—SUPERSTAR GRAHAM
- 4—GREG VALENTINE
- 5—STAN HANSEN
- 6—THE SHEIK
- 7—BLACKJACK MULLIGAN
- 8—NICK BOCKWINKLE
- 9—SPIROS ARION
- 10—SUPER DESTROYER



BOB BACKLUND



LARRY HENNIG

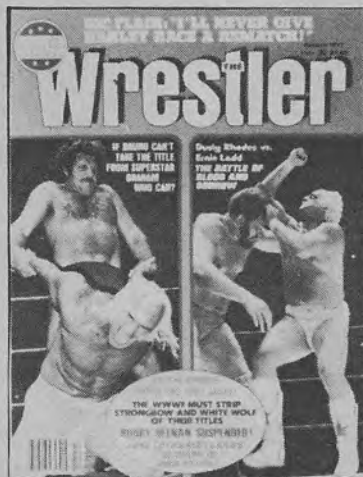


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WAR BETWEEN



VICKI WILLIAMS

LEGGY VICKI WILLIAMS and vicious Paula Kaye are arch enemies. So are sexy Sue Green and pretty Peggy Patterson. And young Joyce Grable joins Vicki and Sue in their mutual dislike of Patterson and Kaye.

Yet, despite how much these gals hate each other or get along with each other, they're all trying to oust the other—friendship or not.

Why?

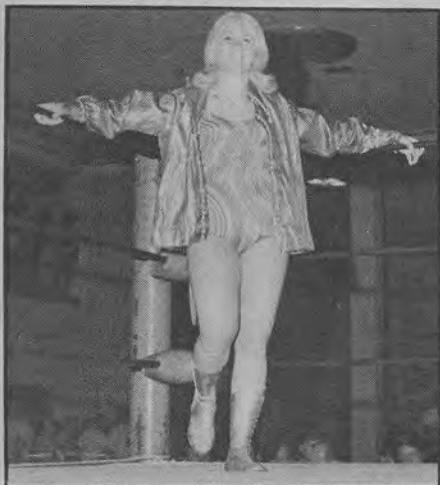
Because they have one thing in mind—beating Fabulous Moolah! And to become the top challenger they'll even try to whip their best friends.

Let's take the case of Joyce Grable and Vicki Williams. Good friends. Tag team partners. Would they wrestle each other?

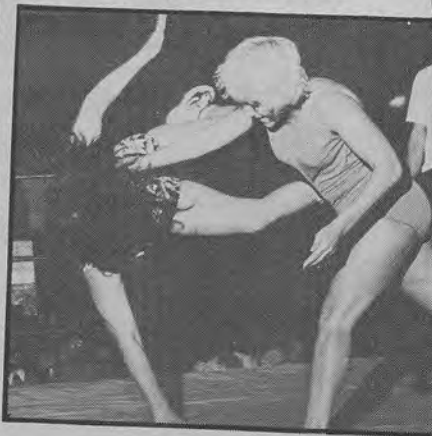
"Sure," Joyce said. "Look, the name of the game is the title. You want to be the best in your field. Well, if one of your friends is standing in the way, sorry. Friendship has to take a back seat.

"I do admire Vicki and thank her for teaching me so much. But if she was in my way to the title and we were forced to

JOYCE GRABLE



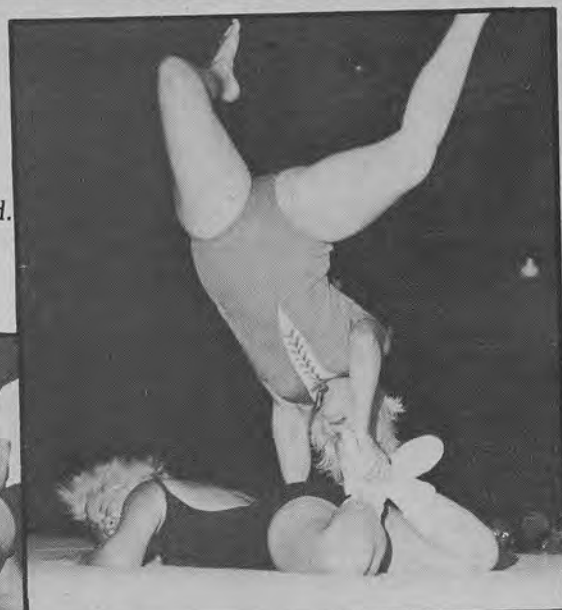
Vicki Williams uses acrobatic skills to take advantage of a toehold that's giving Dottie Downs a hard time (right). "I'd prefer wrestling women like her rather than my friends—Joyce Grable and Sue Green," Vicki said. "But if they stand in the way of a title shot," she bluntly adds, "I'll definitely wrestle them."



Vicki tosses Fabulous Moolah across ring (above) during one of her many title shots. Vicki's come close to winning several times but Moolah's still tops.



Pretty Joyce Grable takes charge in her match against Moolah (above and left). Joyce agrees with Vicki and says she'd wrestle her friend if she must. "The title is the name of the game," she adds. "I want it. If it means wrestling Vicki, I will gladly do it."



These spitfires could be the best of friends. But if there's a championship belt at stake they'd better not turn their backs on each other

THE BLONDES!



Sue Green is just as rough as she is sexy and Donna Christenello's getting a taste of her roughness (left). Paula Kaye's getting a stretch treatment (below), compliments of Sue. "The title is the most important thing to me," Sue contends. "I won't rest until it's around my waist."



SUE GREEN

wrestle each other I'd be for it. It'd be a great match."

"I've got the same outlook," Vicki added. "I'd rather stay away from wrestling friends. But like Joyce said, if that's what you have to do in order to get to the title, that's the way to go. A guilty conscience could stop you from getting to the top. That's no good."

"I'm sure we'd rather wrestle Paula Kaye or Peggy Patterson rather than ourselves," Joyce stressed, "but we both agree we may have to wrestle each other for a title shot or maybe even for the title one day. I mean if one of us wins the belt, I'm sure the other one will go after it. Friendship won't stop that."

Peggy Patterson and Paula Kaye, both roughhouse wrestlers, view the situation like this:

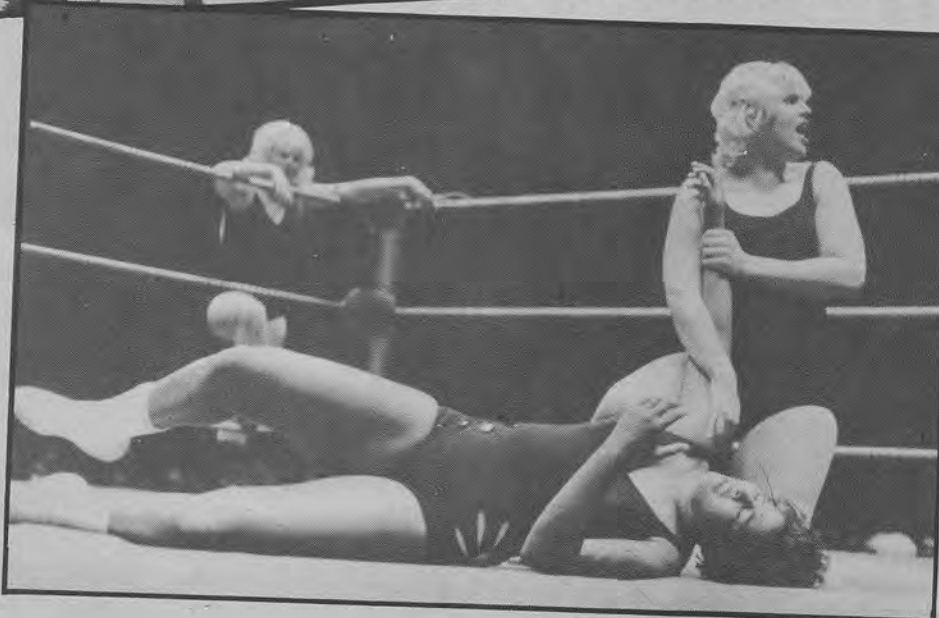
"I don't give a damn who my opponent is," Paula said. "Whoever I'm booked to wrestle becomes my automatic enemy even if it's a member of my family. I'm in there to win and get a shot at the title."

"Same goes for me," Peggy de-

PEGGY PATTERSON



Paula Kaye, one of the most vicious gals in the sport, lifts Jan Sheridan up for a body slam (left) but never gets that far as she turns it into a choke hold. Peggy Patterson (below) has Lily Thomas almost out cold. Peggy is also one of the roughest gals around.





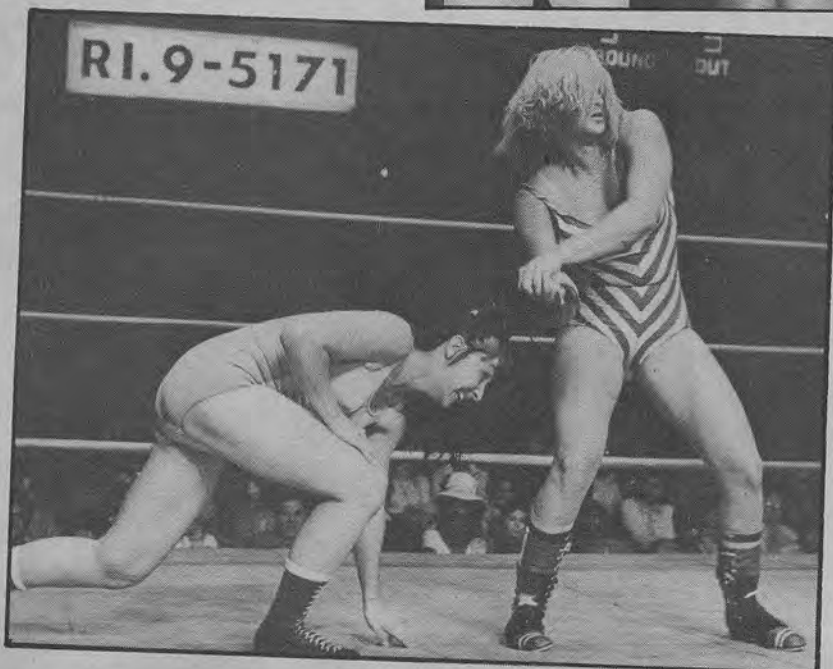
"Give up!" Vicki Williams demands, "or I'll bust it!" Her opponent is the Fabulous Moolah—champion.



Paula Kaye's about to feel the full impact of Vicki's drop-kick (left). They are arch enemies and title contenders. "Williams is overrated," Kaye points out. "I must've beaten her a thousand times already."



Peggy Patterson chokes Lily Thomas (right). Sue Green tries to pull Donna Christenello's hair out by its roots! Sue didn't succeed.



clared. "I can beat anyone, that's my philosophy. That includes Moolah. As for Grable, Williams and Green, they are the worst excuses for wrestlers I've ever seen. I've beaten them countless times. I'm going to demolish every blonde who calls herself a contender."

Sue Green, Texas' blonde import, is anxious to get a title shot.

"And I won't let anyone stop me," she stressed. "Joyce and Vicki are good friends and capable wrestlers, but they will be stepping stones on my way to the title, if necessary. As for Patterson and Kaye, well, they try to hold me back from the title by using tactics that cripple and sideline their opponents for long periods of time. But I assure you I'll fix them good and go on to beat Moolah."

Since everyone's eventual goal is to defeat Moolah, how does the champion herself feel about the girls having a war because of her?

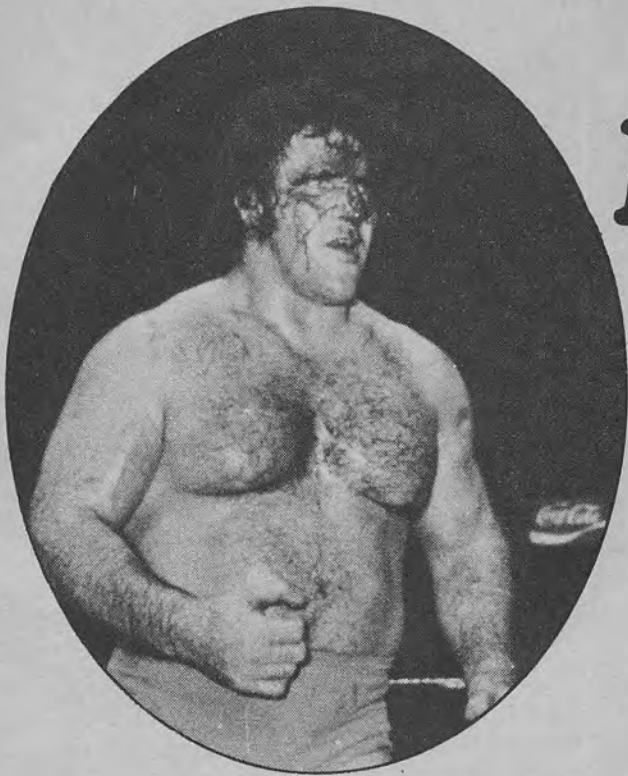
"I think it's good," she said. "It gives them a goal, an incentive, something to strive for. But they should all remember this. I'm not going to give up the title so easily. Any girl who wants that title will have to go out of her way to kill me or something like that. I've had it up to here," she said pointing to the top of her head, "with Vicki Williams' boast that she will beat me eventually. She hasn't done it yet. She's just a big talker."

"Joyce Grable, a mere kid," Moolah pointed out. "She's not ready for the title yet. Neither is that Sue Green. Now, Paula Kaye and Peggy Patterson, I've teamed with them on occasion. They are good wrestlers and a challenge."

Williams and Grable and Green continue to battle it out with blondes Paula Kaye and Peggy Patterson, but it's just a matter of time before they might be at each other's throats. It'll probably spoil many friendships, but to each girl, in the long run it may be worth it.

"Like I said before," Williams reiterated, "friendship will have to take a back seat." And Grable and Green share the opinion, as do Patterson and Kaye.

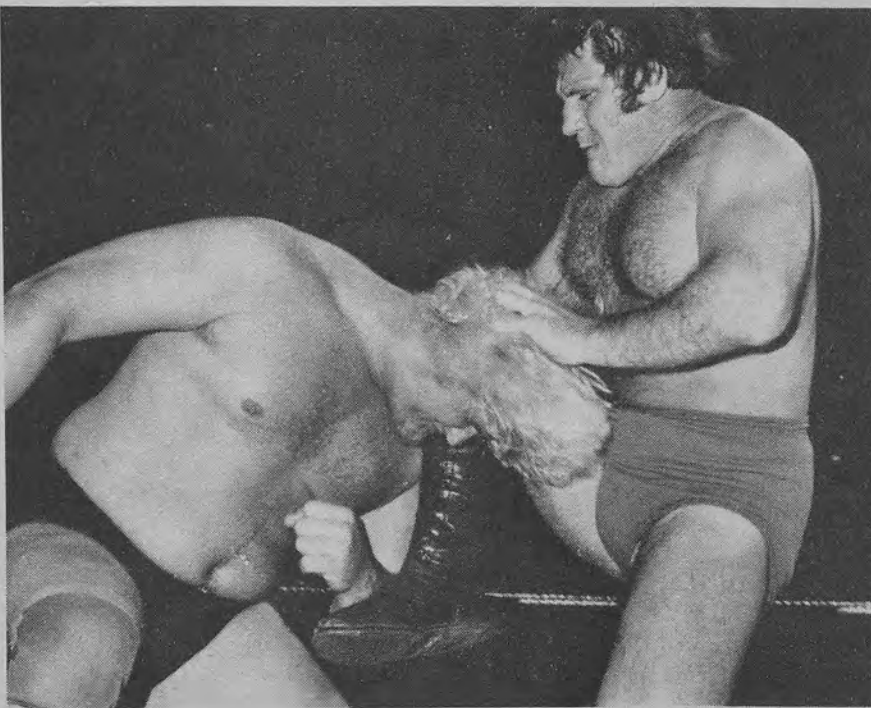
Which one of these gals will take the title from Moolah? Maybe none of them. But until the matter is settled you'll be seeing one hell of an exciting battle as they try to eliminate each other in their individual title quests. □



BRUNO VS. DUNCUM-- THE BLOODY FEUD

IS OVER

This was the match in which Bobby Duncum finally surrendered his dream of capturing Bruno Sammartino's title—for now



Left: In action from their last bout, Bruno catches big Bobby Duncum with a brutal kneelift.

AFTER SOME OF the bloodiest the W.W.W.F. wrestling history, the feud between Bobby Duncum and champion Bruno Sammartino is over. At least, there's distance been put between it!

Bobby Duncum has left the area. His exit followed a match in which the grappling had to be stopped because Bobby was bleeding too badly to continue. Most of their matches had ended with one of the men too bloody to remain in action.

Duncum claims he left the area because the promoters forced him to leave. Sammartino claims Bobby has fled the area after taking more punishment than he could endure. Many agree with Bruno, especially



those who saw the last match. Characteristically, Duncum is more than willing to argue with the world.

"Before I entered the W.W.W.F. area," Duncum claims, "I was promised I could stay there as long as I wanted. And I promised myself I wouldn't leave until I'd taken Sammartino's belt. Death would be the only way to get Bobby Duncum out.

"But I was simple enough to believe I was working with men of honor. That's one mistake I'll never make again. I was ready to get Sammartino the next time—his every move would be turned against him. I was training for that match when they told me my contract had been sold. They were sending me half-way around the world to Japan.

"I tried to argue with them but couldn't get an even break. They pretended they never heard of their promise to let me stay as long as I wanted. All they did was throw the airplane ticket on the table and told me pack.

"At first, I threatened to sue. Hell, no pencil-pushing promoter is going to push Bobby Duncum around. But when I went to a lawyer, he told me the case could take a year. Even if I won, I'd be unable to earn a living. The promoters are the reasons I left.

"Of course, hiding behind the promoters is the cowardly Bruno Sammartino. I wonder how much it cost him to make the promoters run me out of the area? I hope it cost that bum a bundle! Our matches were

Above left: Sammartino has Duncum doubled over in pain from repeated kneelifts to the challenger's head and body. The series of bouts between these two men were among the most vicious in wrestling history. Below: Duncum grabs ahold of Bruno's neck and tries to twist the champion's head off! Now that Bobby's left the area, the feud appears to have finally ended—until Bob returns!





Sammartino grabs Duncum's arm as he prepares to send the dazed wrestler flying into the ropes (above). Bob traps Bruno in a corner and starts to lash punches to Bruno's face (below).



too much for him. He probably sensed I was ready to beat him. He took the only course to save himself. Someday, I'll return and take the title from that chicken. That's a promise!"

Was the beating he took from Sammartino in their last battle in the least bit influential in his sudden departure?

"Sammartino hardly touched me!" Duncum contends. "All he did was open a cut I'd gotten while shaving that morning."

Does Bobby always shave his forehead?

"The cuts were not across my forehead!" he says, defying every eyewitness account of the brawl. "The cut was on my cheek and the blood was smeared across my forehead. There was no real bleeding. Sammartino obviously bribed the doctor to end the match if the slightest blood appeared on me. Bruno didn't beat me—the victory belongs to the doctor."

Naturally, Duncum's accusations have aroused heated controversy in the W.W.W.F. area. Bruno, gentleman that he is, refused to be drawn into a battle of unsubstantiated charges. His arguments are settled within the squared circle. As champion, he feels he should remain above insults and slanders.

The promoters, in their turn, have categorically denied they had sold

Duncum's contract to force the challenger from the area. They claim Duncum had come into the area only because they promised to release him when he asked to go to Japan and wrestle there. He told them he wouldn't consider wrestling for the W.W.W.F. unless he could leave at any time.

"What do you expect them to say?" Duncum asks. "Did you really expect them to admit they were working for Sammartino when they forced me out? Of course they're going to deny it! And of course they'll say it was my idea to leave before I even arrived. They'll do anything to make sure the truth is never known."

"The facts is I'm Sammartino's biggest threat. Everyone knows it. Sooner or later, he had to fall to my superior skill. They just couldn't let that happen."

"Every wrestler in the world knows the W.W.W.F. is protecting Sammartino. They know to beat Sammartino they've also got to beat the W.W.W.F. They all know how tough it is to get at Sammartino."

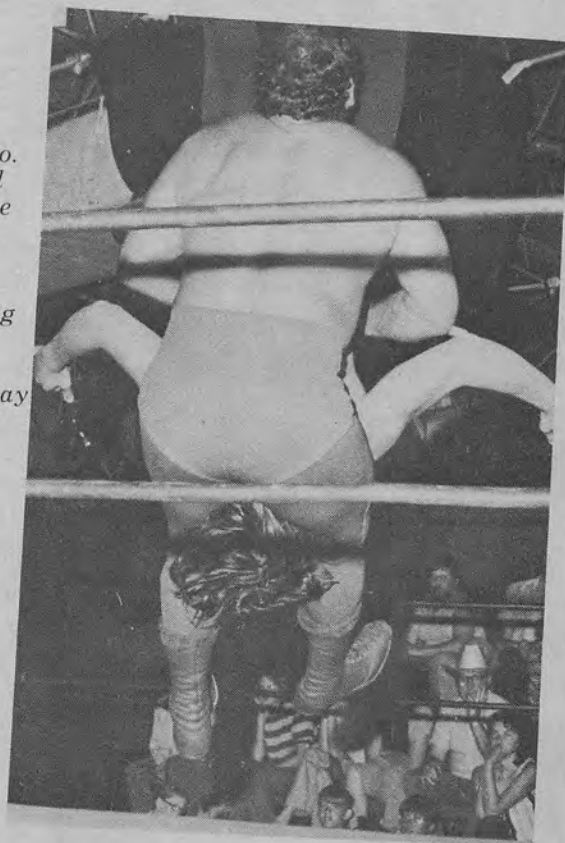
"I'm an example of what happens to an athlete if he dares to challenge Sammartino. Usually, the referees can do the job of making sure Bruno stays champion. I'm so good they had to run me out!"

The thousands who saw the last

(Continued on page 49)

"STOP IT, BOBBY!"

Bobby Lane, in his first year as a referee as well as a rookie wrestler, (left) is challenged by Cyclone Negro. Cyclone attacked Bobby because he believed the young man was trying to stop him from winning his match with Dario Romero. Negro won anyway and then started on the Lane. It took special police to stop their brawl. It didn't stop their anger.



A month later, Negro barges into a television studio and decides to wrestle Bobby. The veteran has Lane at his mercy throughout what can only be called a massacre. The match is brought to an end (above) when Negro piledrives him.

Friends are pleading with Bobby Lane to give up his idea of seeking revenge against Cyclone Negro—at least for the present. But Bobby won't listen—except to the voice inside him that screams "REVENGE!"

PATIENCE IS A virtue. And revenge is sweet only if the other guy takes the beating.

Bobby Lane discovered the truth in the above recently, and he's not likely to forget, at least until the lumps go away and the brace is removed.

Lane is a rookie wrestler who is also a rookie referee. When he was assigned to oversee the Cyclone Negro-Dario Romero match, he thought it would be just another job. However, he should have known that anything involving Negro isn't just another job. He assumed he would be the referee. He wound up as an unscheduled wrestler.

The match began as an ordinary Cyclone explosion—brutally skillful

and outrageously dirty. Romero tried gamely to wrestle scientifically but got battered around the ring for his pains. The unscrupulous Negro took full advantage of Dario's attempt to stick by the rules.

Most referees regard Negro as an uncontrollably wild animal. When someone signs to wrestle Cyclone, he should forget about being in a fair match. Nobody seems willing to get between Negro and a victim unless Cyclone takes out a saber.

But Lane, being a wrestler, respected what Romero was trying to do and decided to help him. When Negro's powerful fingers wrapped around Dario's windpipe, Lane made him release the chokehold. Negro would

then try some brutal rule violation—one he usually gets away with—and Lane would stop him.

Despite Lane's attempts to make Cyclone wrestle scientifically, the foul tactics began to take their toll on Romero. Eventually, he was weakened and bloody.

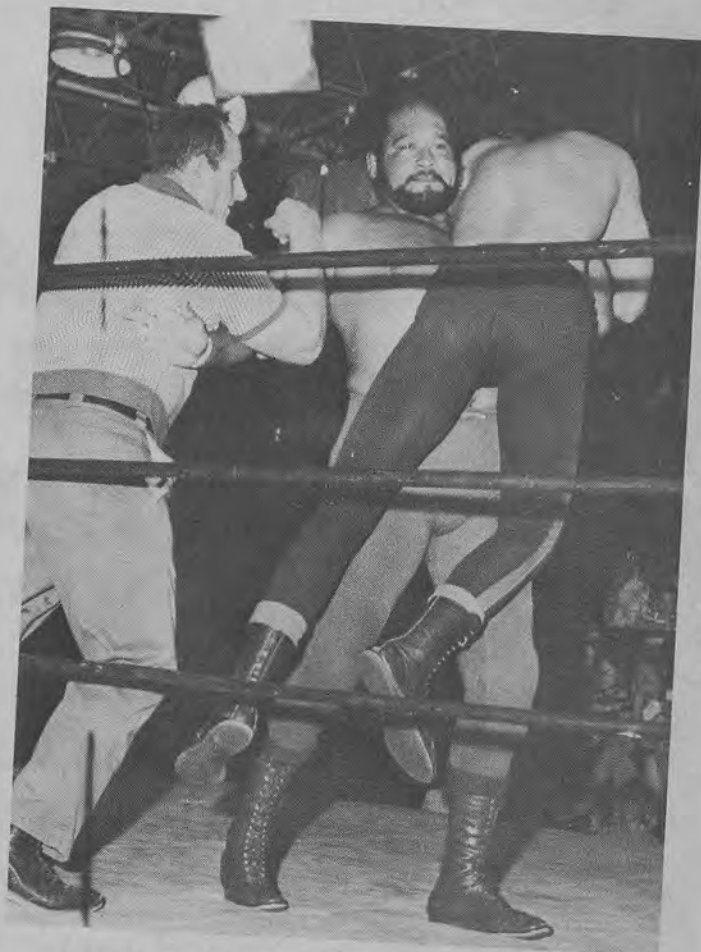
When Romero lay beaten upon the canvas, Negro turned to Lane and screamed, "I want you now! You tried to make me lose!"

And within seconds, Lane the referee became Lane the wrestler. Actually, he became Lane the brawler. The two men pounded each other until the special police broke it up.

The next morning the wrestling

(Continued on page 52)

YOU'RE COMMITTING SUICIDE!"



In a matter of minutes, Lane is a plaything for Negro to batter at will. Negro's powerful fingers fasten around Lane's throat (left) and choke him unmercifully. When the referee demands he stop, Negro takes the young man and hurls him.



At the mere sight of his bitter enemy, Jim Valiant, Chief Jay Strongbow becomes filled with rage. This feud has been going on for over three years now.

THE HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE still hasn't been erased in Chief Jay Strongbow's memory. Still, night after night, almost three years later, he still loses sleep over an incident that changed his life. It was three years ago

that his best friend and tag team partner, Jim Valiant, ended their friendship and tried to kill the popular Indian.

"That snake in the grass!" Strongbow explodes as he talks about Valiant. "I've never met anyone so low as him. My blood *boils* when I remember what he did to me."

Then the pages open and the ugly wounds in Strongbow's memory again become all too real.

"He was wrestling in the World Wide Wrestling Federation area," the Chief remembered. "Jim Valiant came across as a good, scientific wrestler. He befriended me and we had a terrific relationship. Why I even helped him train for important matches. Hell, I taught him my special hold, the sleeper. I showed him how to apply it perfectly."

"Then we teamed up and were well on our way to the tag team title when he attacked me during a match and nearly killed me with my own sleeper hold. Later on I found out he was *planted* by the Grand Wizard to infiltrate my life and find out my secrets. And he succeeded. I just couldn't believe that this man I was so

close to—the very man my wife and I invited to eat dinner with us at our house so many times—would be a dirty, stinkin' rat!"

Strongbow begged promoters to sign a match with him against Valiant. But they refused.

"Those guys are out to kill each other," one promoter said. "I won't have any death in my arena." And that was the feeling of 99 percent of the promoters. But one was willing to make the match. The promoter from the Boston Garden.

CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW WAITED THREE YEARS FOR THIS MATCH

No match ever stood out in Chief Jay Strongbow's mind like the one in which tag team partner and friend Handsome Jim Valiant double crossed him. Even though he's since gotten revenge, the Chief may never forget it



The match proved to be wild with each trying to destroy the other with sleeper holds. Both men went berserk, and finally both were disqualified. Shortly afterwards, Valiant left the W.W.W.F. area.

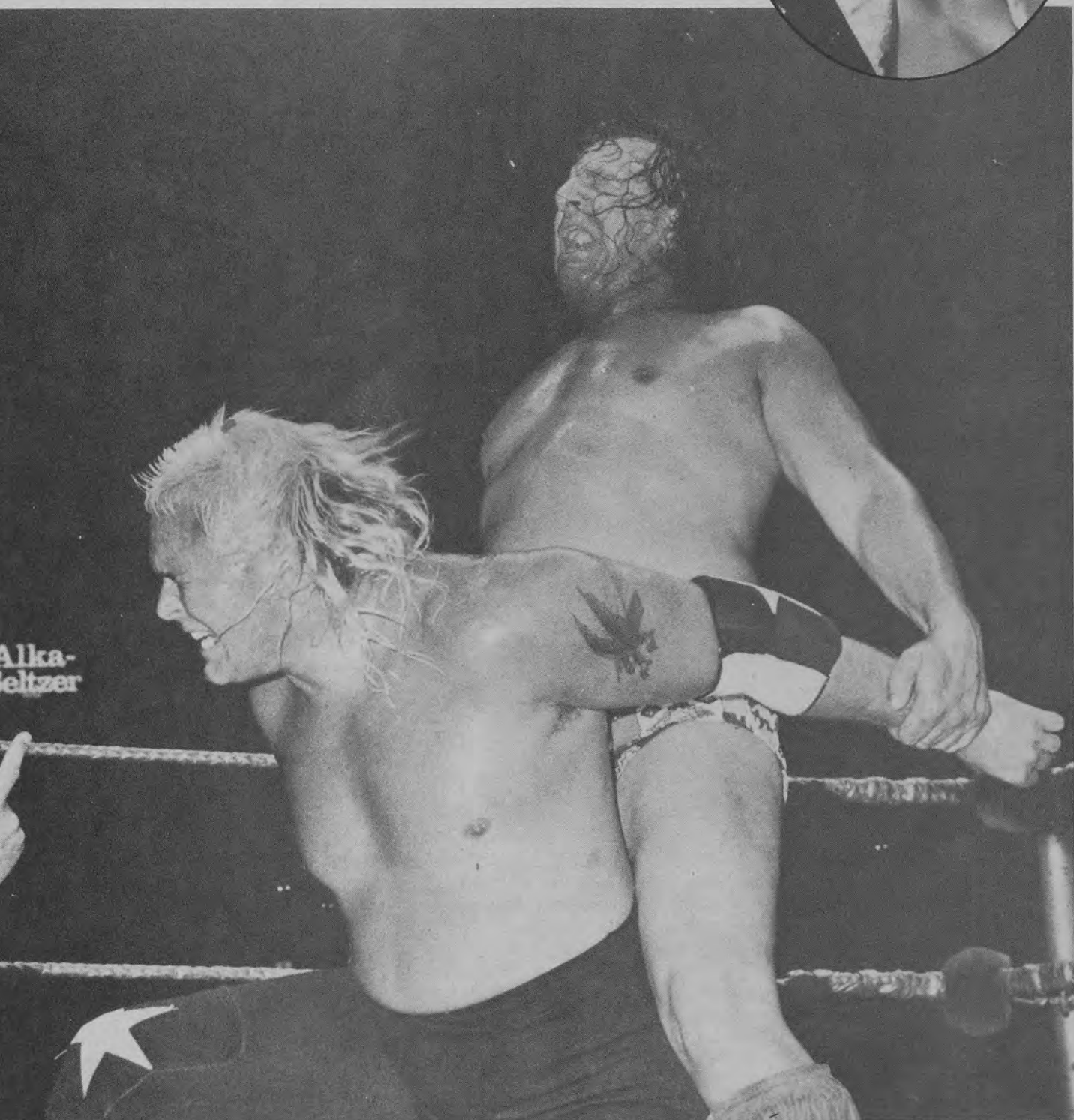
By no means was Strongbow satisfied. And when he heard almost two years later that Valiant and his younger brother John were coming East, he immediately asked for a match against Jim.

"He'll only wrestle in tag team matches," the promoters told Strong-

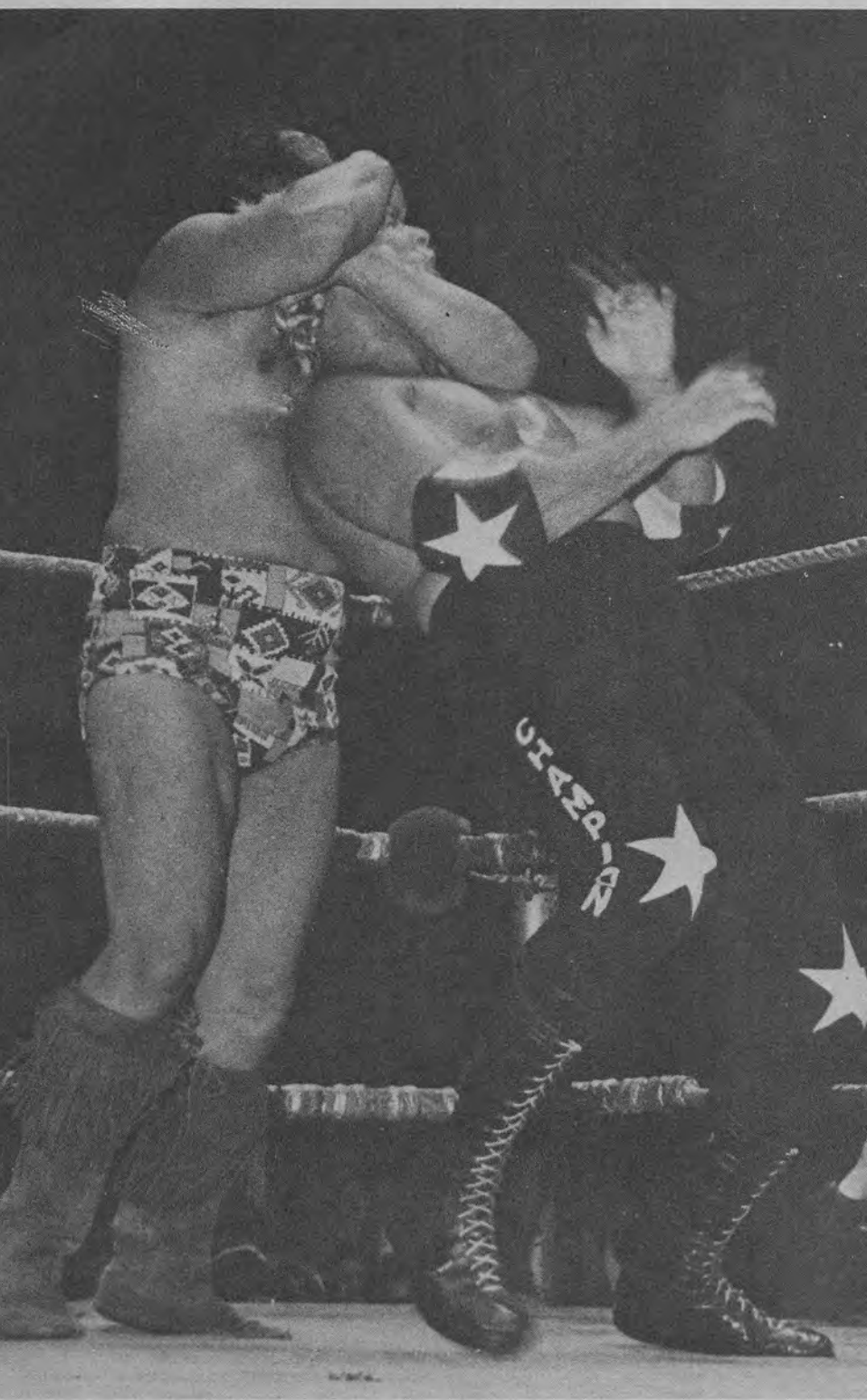
bow. "That's the way his new manager, Lou Albano, wants it."

Lou Albano—another man for whom Strongbow has no love. Now he was standing in the way of the Chief's biggest wish. So what'd the Chief do? He teamed with several partners and grappled against the Valiants in tag matches. But satisfaction still wasn't achieved.

After capturing the W.W.W.F. tag title and holding it for several months, the Valiants lost the belts to Victor Rivera and Dom DeNucci. When they



Alka-
seltzer



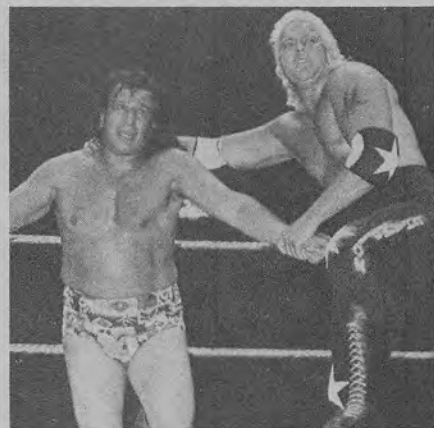
failed to regain the belts Albano suggested they wrestle individually. Now The Chief might finally get his wish! If Albano wanted him men to wrestle the best, he'd have to sign against Strongbow.

Albano tried to knock Strongbow off by pitting John against him first. But John couldn't put the Chief out of commission. Now it was Jimmy's turn.

When they got into the ring The Chief went wild. He didn't even take off his headdress and Valiant didn't get

a chance to take off his jacket! Strongbow was chasing him all over the ring. Finally, Valiant jumped over the ropes and onto the ring apron. The Chief took off his headdress and went after Valiant, who was now wielding a rope. Strongbow tomahawk chopped Jimmy but it did no good. Valiant used it to his advantage and the chief was in trouble.

The next instant Jim was in the ring again. This time he was kicking and fouling Strongbow every way he



Above: A Jim Valiant armdrag has Strongbow flying. Below: The enraged Chief attacks Jim before the bell rings. Left: The Chief puts Jim to sleep.



could. He kept up his treachery for 10 minutes or so and then Strongbow went into a war dance! Wham! The Chief tossed Valiant all over the ring.

When the dust cleared the Chief locked Jim in a sleeper hold. But Valiant went towards the ropes and Strongbow had to release the hold.

Again and again the Chief tried but he was thwarted each time by Valiant's rope grabbing. Realizing he was at a dead end, Valiant threw his hands up in disgust and left the ring.

"How do you expect me to wrestle a crazy Indian?" Valiant yelled as he passed by fans going back to the dressing room. "He won't give me a chance to wrestle scientifically! He's nuts!"

And that was the last Strongbow saw of Valiant.

"And dammit, I'm still not satisfied!" Strongbow said. "Now I hear Valiant's headed to the A.W.A. area. He'll never come back he's so scared!"

It could take another three years before Strongbow can again realize his dream. Until then all his dreams turn to ugly nightmares starring Jim Valiant. □

PUTSKI AND IGOR ARE PROVIN' CONFUSIN'



Standing with his toys is Ivan Putski (left). The powerful man with the bemused look on his face is Mighty Igor (below). It's not surprising that the astonishing resemblance between the two men has caused fans to wonder if they're the same person. But they are two very different, great wrestlers!

Ivan Putski and Mighty Igor have so much in common they often confuse the fans

"ARE IVAN PUTSKI and Mighty Igor the same person?"

It is that question this magazine is asked more than any other. And conclusively, once and for all, the answer is NO!

It is an obvious mistake. Both men have adopted similar styles. Both are built about the same. And both are from Poland.

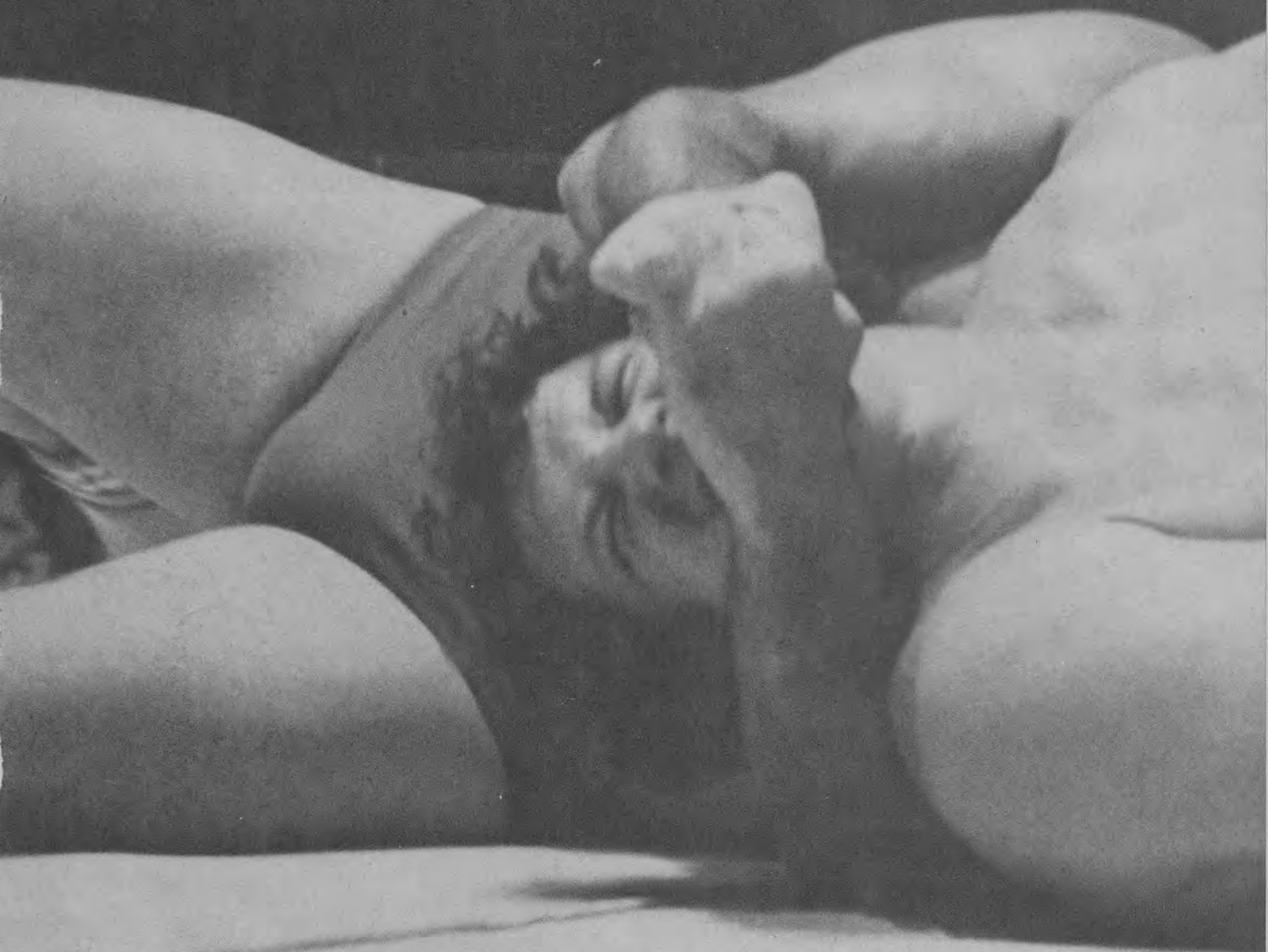
Another similarity is each man claims to be the world's strongest man. Even the clothes each man wears into the ring are similar. However, there are differences between the two.

Igor speaks no English. His communication to the crowd is a wide smile and a friendly wave of the hand. Putski, on the other hand,

(Continued on page 50)



STANDOO



KNEES BUCKLING FROM the pain, Billy Robinson crumpled to the canvas. Trapped in Terry Funk's headlock, his agony was forcing him into one of the most desperate measures ever taken by a professional wrestler.

Billy did not fall to the mat simply because of his pain. As he fell, he twisted his body in a premeditated fashion. Risking a broken neck, he kicked his legs out and

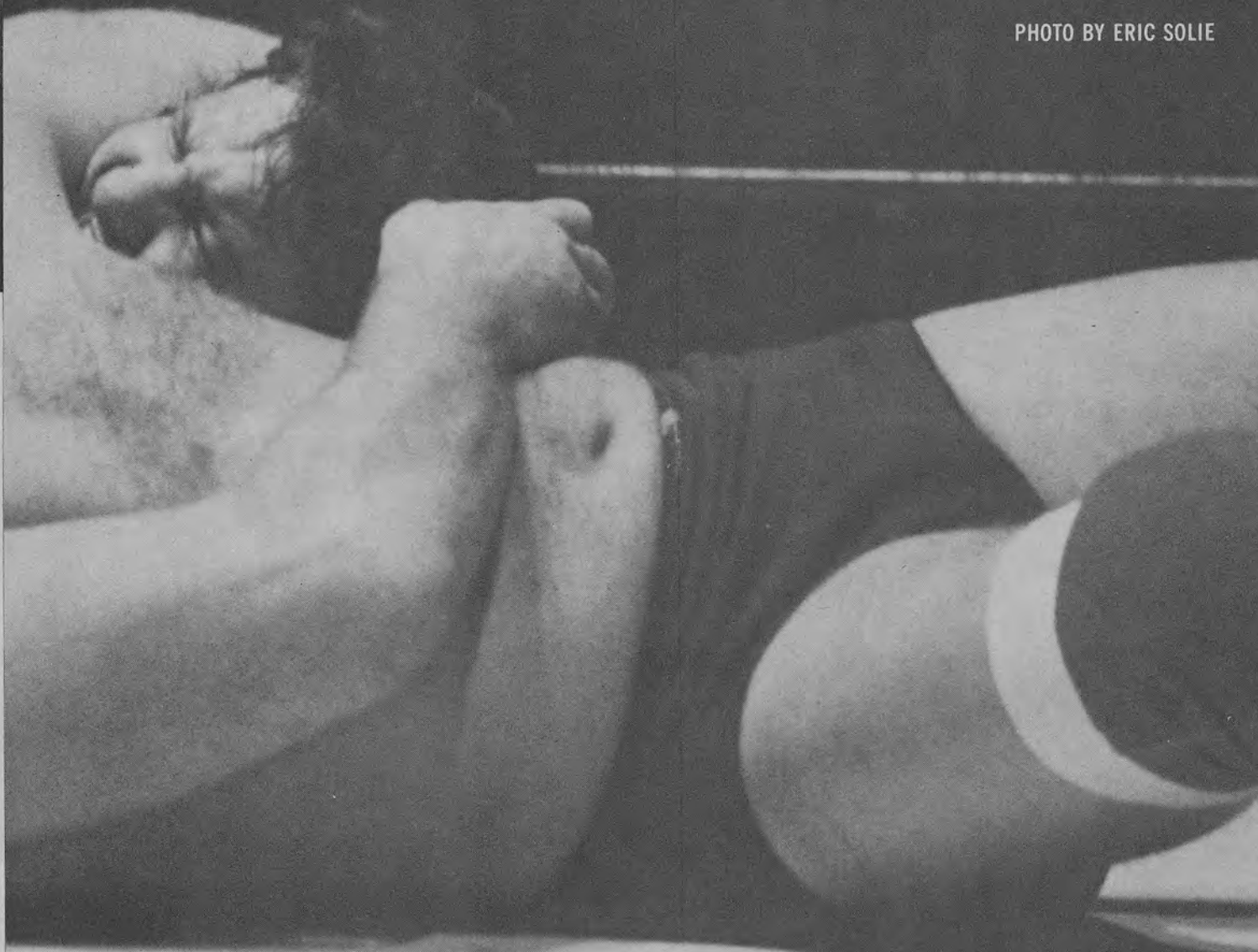
wound up facing in the opposite direction. This allowed him to reach up and put Funk in a headlock. The only drawback to this maneuver was it didn't free him from Funk's grasp.

So the two men, facing head-to-toe, squeezed each other's head with every ounce of strength at their command. They groaned and gasped for air; their faces turned beet red. Still, neither man would

FF!

Terry Funk and Billy Robinson are two great wrestlers, athletes evenly matched in skill and power. Courage is the only way to decide a match between them!

PHOTO BY ERIC SOLIE



submit. It became apparent the match would be decided by heart, not power.

It seemed like an eternity these two men were locked in this mutually torturous grip. The referee watched with his mouth hanging open, awed by this much absorbed agony. Not a single sound which could be construed as plea for submission was heard.

The match ended the only way possible: the time limit expired. At the sound of the bell, the two men released their holds. Too weak to immediately get on their feet, they rolled on the mat and gasped for air. They had both won a remarkable victory. They had proven courage can conquer pain. It is the greatest achievement towards which any human can aspire. □

SITTING BY THE ring apron, Rock Hunter studied the battle warily. Andre the Giant had slowly but surely gained control of his match against Abdullah the Butcher. It was just for this possibility that Hunter was there.

Rock, a ruthless manager is known for interfering when his wrestler, Professor Toru Tanaka, gets into trouble. When Andre started to

dominate the battle against Abdullah, Hunter waited patiently to make his move. He was about to prove he could manage, and use illegal tactics for, more than one wrestler.

He got his chance. Andre body slammed Abdullah near Hunter's corner. Rock got to his feet and started shouting.

"Hey ref!" Pay Attention! That's illegal!" he screamed, edging closer to

his wrestler. "Disqualify Andre!"

Hunter hadn't expected to have Andre disqualified. However, he did expect the referee to turn away from him in disgust. And while the referee's back was turned, Hunter's hand reached out for Abdullah.

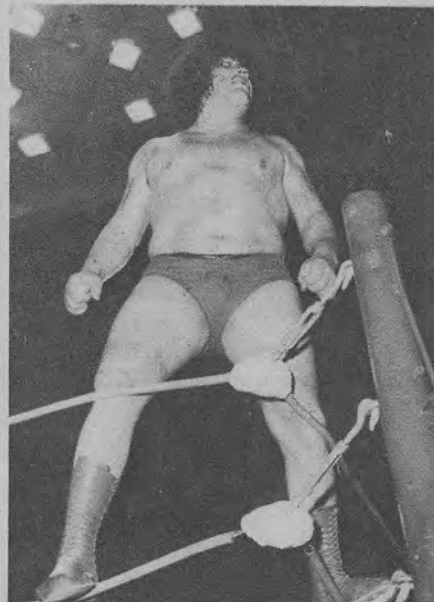
Abdullah grabbed the manager's hand and the grappler's face broke out into a smile. Clenched tightly in his huge fist was a plastic knife!

PHOTOS BY DANNY GODDARD

THE MAN WHO BLOODIED ANDRE THE GIANT AND A EVER



Left: Abdullah the Butcher has Andre against the ropes where he carves him bloody with a foreign object. Below: A bleeding Andre yells at Abdullah.



When a man as weird as Abdullah The Butcher goes berserk, not even a 425-pound giant is safe!

Andre had no idea when Abdullah got to his feet that he was armed. The giant mat star innocently waded in at his foe, expecting to finish him off within a minute. Instead, he was walking toward a riot!

Andre was within three feet of Abdullah when he saw the knife clenched in his foe's fist. By then it was too late. Abdullah sent the weapon toward Andre's head, splitting the flesh across the giant's face. Andre the Giant was bleeding!

The giant stumbled backwards, blood pouring down into his eyes and blinding him. But Andre would be stunned for only a moment. His strategist's mind was already formulating an offense.

With lightning speed, made even more remarkable coming from one his size, Andre grabbed Abdullah's hand and twisted it with all his strength. The knife fell to the canvas. Instantly, Andre pounced on it.

That was all Hunter had to see. He raised his right arm and turned it in a circular motion. Rock then rushed over the ropes and leaped on Andre.

(Continued on page 62)



Another victim of Abdullah's savagery is Mr. Wrestling II. The masked star came into the ring after Abdullah's manager, Rock Hunter, interfered. After Abdullah bloodied him, Wrestling II is restrained from attacking the Butcher by Bruno Sammartino (above).

ALMOST YBODY ELSE!

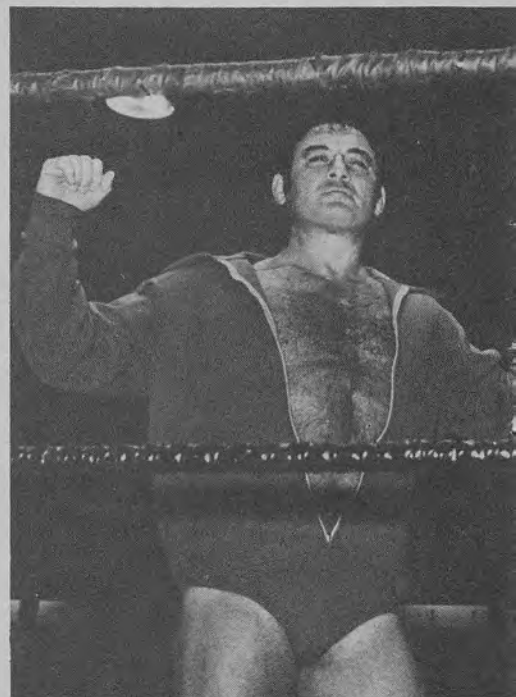


Left: Abdullah's manager, Rock Hunter, watches as his man uses illegal tactics on Andre. Right: After Andre got the upper hand in the match, Hunter along with Dudley Clements, Toru Tanaka, and the Assassin II all interfere in the bout. It was one of the cruelest exhibitions ever seen in a wrestling arena.



When two tag team experts form a new team, the fireworks that result could change the very face of wrestling!

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER



THERE WAS NONE of the celebration excitement usually found in the victor's dressing room. Don Kent answered reporter's questions in monosyllables as he prepared to leave the arena.

Finally, someone asked, "Are you bored by all this?"

Kent froze. A weak smile flickered across his face and he sat down on the training table. He decided to admit the obvious.

"Most of my professional life," he began, "I've been part of a tag team. When I was one half of the Fabulous Kangaroos, there were moments of greatness. We were constantly perfecting maneuvers, discovering new things, and developing an original tag team philosophy. It was always challenging and exciting.

"Tag team wrestling is the new frontier. Solo wrestling has been

HALF A TAG TEAM + AN UNBEATABLE

The tag team of Chris Tolos and Don Kent (below) are veterans of Fabulous Kangaroos (right) and the Tolos Brothers (left).



around for ages. All you can do is perfect what others discovered long before you. Tag team wrestling is the world's most innovative sport; though it's in its infancy. It may take another century before we're able to absorb the many changes we've been experimenting with today.

"There are hundreds of methods yet to be even conceived. Within my lifetime, the entire sport may undergo vast change. To work with a partner you can trust and respect is the best of all possible worlds. I've never gotten one-tenth the thrill from wrestling solo as I've experienced in tag team competition. I'd rather chart new ground than follow in someone else's footsteps."

Kent talked more than two hours to anyone who would listen about

(Continued on page 48)



HALF A TAG TEAM = TABLE DUO

**Exclusive
Inside
Report:**

WHY A WRESTLER CAN DEFEAT A BOXER



Before his battle with Antonio Inoki, Muhammad Ali tries to battle Gorilla Monsoon. First Monsoon put Ali in an airplane spin (above) and soon had the heavyweight boxing champion on the canvas (right), a feat few men have been able to accomplish in boxing. Ali should have known much better than to think he could take on Gorilla Monsoon.

BY BILL APTER

COMPARING A BOXER to a wrestler is like comparing the infantry to an entire standing army. A wrestler possesses so many more weapons in his arsenal than does a boxer.

The controversy over who is the more effective battler is as old as the sports themselves. The ancient

Greek opted for wrestling as the more perfect sport artistically. The Oriental martial arts have a wrestling rather than boxing base upon which the various moves are built. It is only in the past 100 years that boxing has been able to get a good many people believing it is the perfect form of self-defense.

The controversy raged once again as Muhammad Ali and Antonio

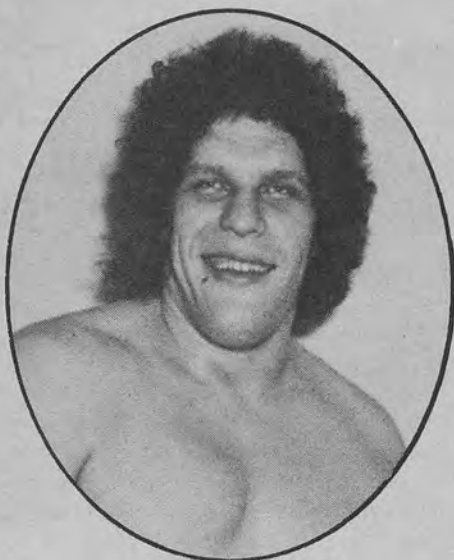
Inoki tried to settle the question. Many people believe the result of that match settled the question for all time. However, until these battles become commonplace, the question will never be answered to the discriminating fan's satisfac-



tion. One match can't settle an argument as old as man himself!

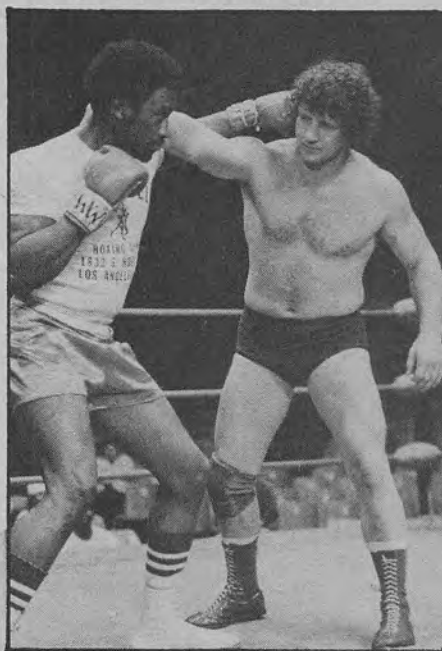
Until it becomes common practice for wrestlers to battle boxers (and it looks as if such a thing is coming to pass), we can only settle the question by logic. Remember, we're not comparing the greatest wrestler against the greatest boxer, because greatness has its own set

(Continued on page 56)



Andre the Giant smiles proudly (above) after defeating boxer Chuck Wepner. Ali clowns with Inoki (below) at the press conference announcing their battle. Inoki just smiles back.

NWA Champion Terry Funk and heavyweight boxing contender Howard Smith battle in a Los Angeles exhibition (below). It was the first in a series of many confrontations like this.



Chuck Wepner (above), a top contender in boxing, was easily defeated by Andre the Giant in their recent battle. In the third round, Andre expertly threw Chuck out of the ring.



The outcome of the Ali vs. Inoki bout has not come close to settling the controversy of whether a wrestler can defeat a boxer. Grappling's top analyst tells how this argument can be settled—and why a wrestler will almost always emerge victorious!



Billy "Superstar" Graham's opinion of Ivan Putski was, to say the least, uncomplimentary. We bet it's changed now

PHOTOS BY BOB SABRE

Ivan Putski is famous for his toys, which he brings into the ring with him (left). Yet, his opponents have learned not to underestimate him because he is a fierce and crafty wrestler in spite of his innocent ways. Billy Graham had to learn not to insult somebody because he acts like a child.

A CHILD WOULD tell you Billy "Superstar" Graham is not a nice man. Ivan Putski, who combines a child's innocence with a veteran grappler's skill and cunning, traveled to Chicago in hopes of teaching the nasty man a lesson. It's a lesson Billy Graham will never forget.

The match pitted arrogance against innocence, vicious cruelty against sweet dignity. Billy Graham couldn't be fair if he tried, while Ivan couldn't cheat even if he knew how.

Graham was his usual egotistical self before the match. While telling how great is Billy Graham, he did his best to insult Ivan Putski.

"Being the world's greatest wrestler," Graham announced, "not to mention the world's most magnificent physical specimen, I will make short work of this overgrown simpleton. There is no mercy going to be shown this mindless hulk of overblown fat. I will send him crying back to his

THE MAN WHO MADE "SUPER STAR" GRAHAM

BACK DOWN!

toys. I usually don't bother to lay waste to children but in this freak's case I'll make an exception.

"Most people familiar with my great abilities realize it is beneath me to wrestle Putski. They are right. I am wrestling him only because I want to see the big baby cry. It ought to be good for a couple of laughs.

"Poor Putski. To be sacrificed to the legend of Billy 'Superstar' Graham."

Putski, with his very limited command of the English language, couldn't comprehend the insults. It would have made no difference because Ivan already knew why he'd come.

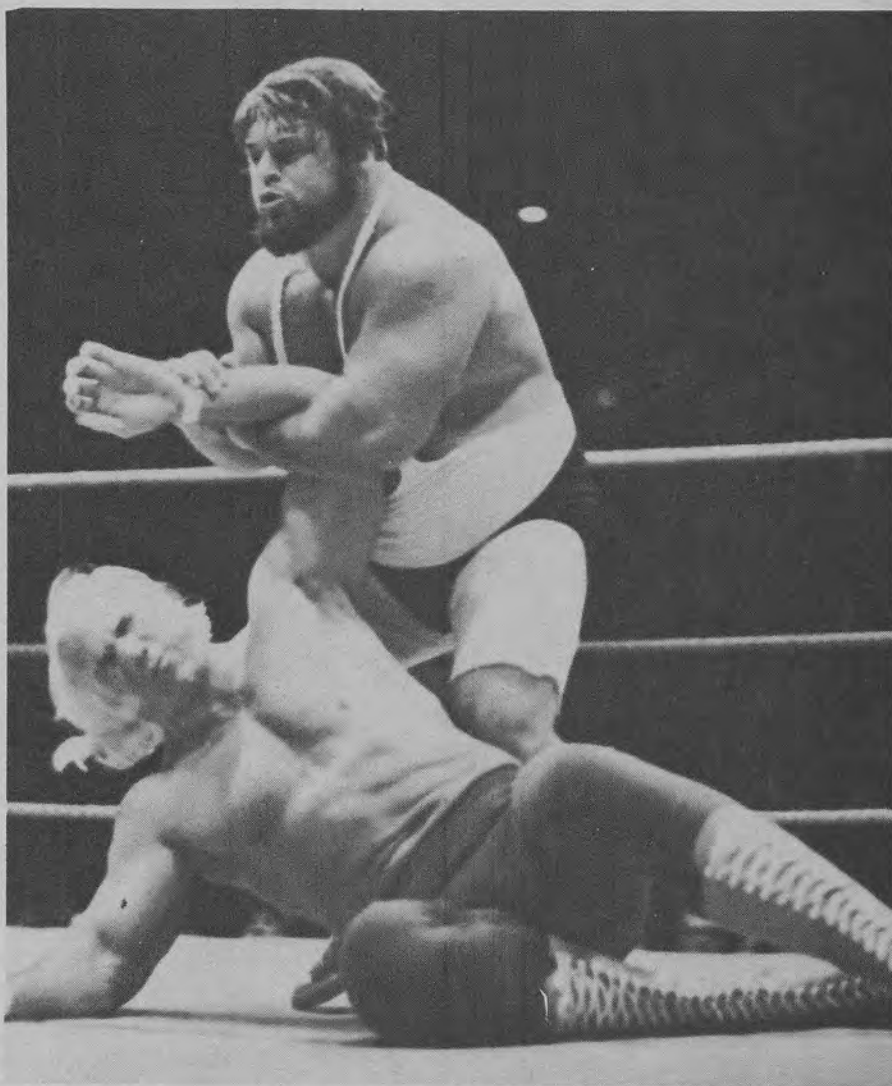
"Graham is bad person," Ivan declared. "I punish."

So it was to be Graham's ego battling Putski's sense of right and wrong. It was also a contest between two of the strongest men in wrestling. Both men are reknowned for their physical feats. There was enough brute power between the two for a six-man tag team match!

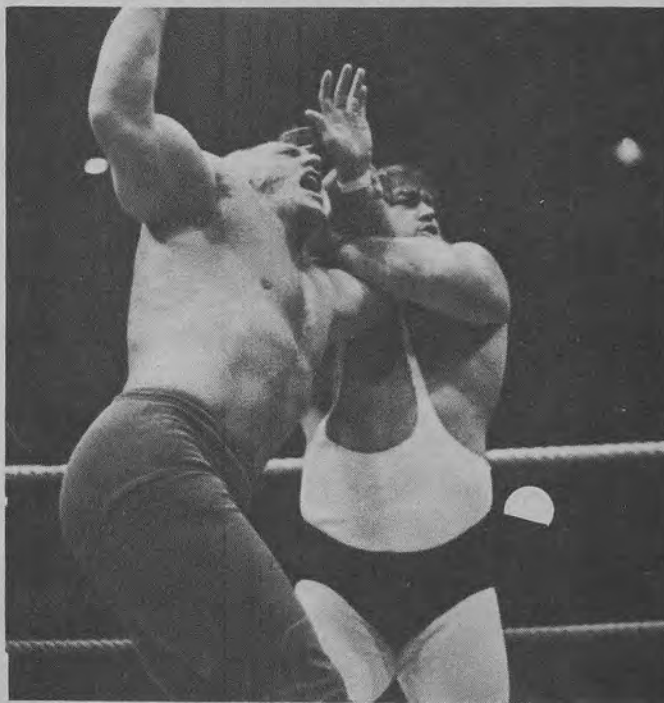
It wasn't a match so much as a slaughter. Ivan was an avenging powerhouse. Graham could only try desperately but unsuccessfully to stay out of Putski's clutches.

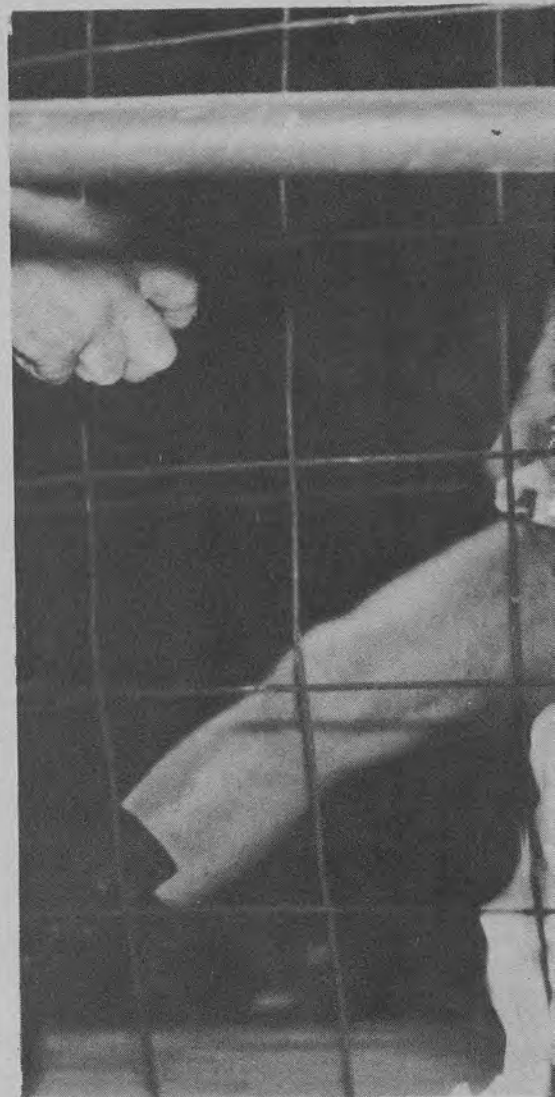
Graham couldn't believe what happened. The match started with Ivan trapping the "Superstar" in an excruciating armlock. Graham was

(Continued on page 64)



Putski was an avenging tiger throughout the match. Whether it is a devastating armlock (above) or powerful headlock (left) or preparing to hurl an agonized Graham into the ropes (below), Putski is in control and Graham is his helpless victim.





Both wrestlers badly bloodied. The Sheik tries to burn Johnny but ignites the canvas instead (left). Grabbing lighter fluid, The Sheik makes the inside of the cage a raging, blazing, and deadly inferno (above). As if that isn't enough, The Sheik wants to burn Valentine's head.

THE NIGHT THE SHEIK SET THE ARENA ON FIRE!

FANS SAT TERRIFIED on the edges of their seats. Hands were pressed to mouths as if to hold back gasps. Women turned their heads so they wouldn't have to see.

Inch by inch Johnny Valentine's face edged closer to the flames. A sick smile spread across the face of The Sheik as he forced his opponent's head closer to the blaze. It seemed only a matter of seconds before Valentine's long blond hair would ignite. History was repeating itself.

Not many months previous, The Sheik had put Valentine out of commission by singeing his eyes as he shot fire from his fingers. During



PHOTOS BY DAVE BRYZYNSKI

When you go to see The Sheik wrestle it's a good idea to sit near the fire exits. Recently the Arab terror nearly burned down an entire arena!

Johnny's period of recuperation he could think of nothing except gaining revenge on the man who'd temporarily blinded him.

Valentine wanted more than vengeance. He wanted blood. The Sheik's blood. So Johnny requested and received a cage match with no referee.

Whatever there is to be said about The Sheik, one thing that cannot be said is that the man lacks guts. He readily agreed to the circumstances. In fact, he was as happy as Valentine to get a cage match.

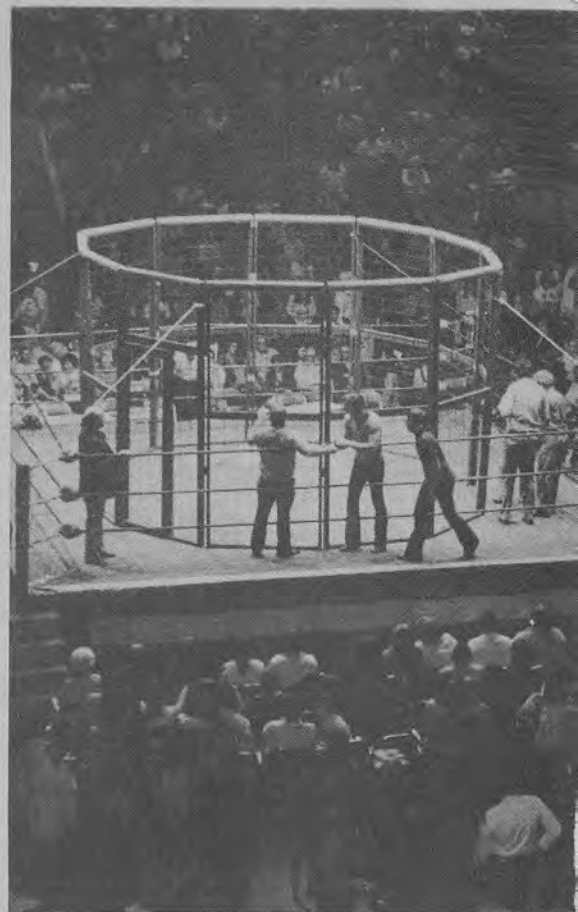
"He's overjoyed," noted Eddie Creatchman, Sheik's handler. "I can barely control him. He's so anx-

ious to get this started I know something terrible is going to happen to Valentine. I can feel it. And I won't be responsible. Remember, Valentine asked for this."

Valentine, of course, didn't believe anything terrible was going to happen—to him.

"I want this so bad I can taste it," Johnny said calmly sipping coffee in a luncheonette. "I am going to pound him into the canvas with my Atomic Skullcrusher. Without a referee to hold me back The Sheik will wind up as nothing more than a big red stain."

"I won't be happy until the canvas inside the cage is soaked with



All is made in readiness as the cage is checked for the final time (above). No one suspected it would almost be Johnny's tomb.

his blood. I'd like to beat him an inch from death—then let him live so I can have more fun and pound his skull in again!"

Johnny seemed to be able to follow his game plan in the early stages of the match. He pounded Sheik's head into the posts of the circular cage until the Arab's face was covered with blood. A tremendous skullcrusher followed, all but sending Sheik into eternity.

The Arab lay helpless. Valentine could easily have climbed out of the cage and won the match. But he didn't. He didn't want a victory. He wanted more blood.

Suddenly, The Sheik made a scramble halfway up the side of the cage. Johnny, caught by surprise, managed to grab Sheik's legs, but as he pulled they both tumbled to the canvas with The Sheik's knees landing on Johnny's chest.

Seizing his opportunity, Sheik pounded his closed fist into Johnny's face until it flowed red. The Arab was showing John as much mercy as John had shown him.

(Continued on page 51)

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**BEN
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GERMAN ROADBLOCK

(Continued from Page 12)



Dusty struggles to retain his senses as the clawhold envelopes his body in wave after wave of pain. Blinded by blood, Dusty can barely sense where his opponent is and how badly he himself is actually wounded. Only his great courage allowed him to continue.

contender would be an insult to my title. So, I've got to dispose of him before I get my championship. I'm going to beat him so bad he'll be ashamed to ask for a title shot!"

Rhodes watched every film he could get his hands on to study Krupp's wrestling; he was going to leave no stone unturned in preparation for this match. When he entered the arena for the match, Dusty knew as much about Karl as Krupp himself.

Knowledge alone is sometimes not enough. Knowing how a gun works doesn't enable you to dodge bullets.

Krupp proved that even the most accomplished wrestler, knowing all his tricks, could not prevent a bloodbath.

Less than five minutes into the bout, Karl had opened the first cut across Dusty's forehead. Five minutes later, the German's expert fingers had turned the cut into a hideous gash, spilling blood across Rhodes' head. Then Rhodes countered Krupp's tactics with his own savage attack. Stunned fans were shocked that either man could survive this brawl.

Finally, the referee disqualified Krupp when the German refused to



Many wrestlers would quit after suffering what Dusty does—being bloodied and thrown from the ring (above). Dusty still doesn't stop trying (below)!



stop kicking the fallen Rhodes in the stomach. It took the threat of a 1,000 fine before Krupp finally left the arena.

Dusty rose wearily to his feet just in time to see his foe storm angrily back to the dressing room. Rhodes had the victory, but he knew he failed to accomplish his goal. Krupp could validly ask for a title shot if and when Dusty became champion. The image of Killer Karl Krupp would hang over Dusty's reign like a spectre of doom.

Sooner or later, Dusty Rhodes will have to wrestle Killer Karl Krupp again. Everything Rhodes dreams about will be at stake in that confrontation. ☐

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INTRODUCTION

(Continued from Page 6)



All hell breaks loose as wrestlers rush into the ring in attempts to stop Andre the Giant and Abdullah the Butcher from killing each other (above). When Ivan Putski (below left) was a rookie star, he wrestled Superstar Billy Graham and made Graham back down! The Sheik is a master when it comes to terrorizing wrestlers—and his favorite tactic is throwing fire (below right).



people? Or is it that Ivan is Igor and Ivan is not Igor, depending on who you talk to . . .

Standoff! is a prime example of a picture being worth one thousand words. You have to see it to believe it!

Abdullah the Butcher is one of the most vicious men in the sport. That is a fact. He can be one of the most destructive men in the sport. That is also a fact.

He does not have to prove his cruelty any more. Everyone knows. Yet in *The Man Who Bloodied Andre the Giant and Almost Everybody Else*, Abdullah outdid himself. Fortunately, Andre was able to prove he doesn't take this kind of behavior from any man . . . including Abdullah the Butcher!

Take John Tolos, who

teamed for years with brother Chris, add Don Kent, who once was part of the Kangaroos, and you have quite a pair. The great story, *Half a Tag Team Plus Half a Tag Team = An Unbeatable Combination!* is the proof of this. This article is still discussed by fans who list all-time great tag teams. You must read this to discover what was so special.

When it was originally printed, *Why a Wrestler Can Defeat a Boxer* was an educated speculation. Now it is fact. It has been proven time and again. When it comes to a confrontation between the two sports, wrestling is always going to win. That's the way we called it, and that's the way it is. Fact.

Can you recognize Ivan Putski in *The Man Who Made Superstar Graham Back Down?* This is a story from early in his career. One thing is for sure—though he has changed a lot since that time, Ivan is still one of the greatest wrestlers in the sport—just ask Superstar Graham!

You do not want to be around when Sheik goes berserk. Anything can happen. To understand this, just read *The Night The Sheik Set the Arena on Fire*. With someone like Sheik, anything is possible.

So there you have it. The greatest men in the sport—Dusty Rhodes, Andre the Giant, Bruno Sammartino, Superstar Graham, Ivan Putski, and many more—are all here. These stories will make you laugh. They will make you cry. You will get angry. You will be elated. And in the end, you will see why this is the greatest collection of wrestling's GREATEST BATTLES ever published! ☐

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AN UNBEATABLE DUO

(Continued from Page 37)



Chris Tolos is trapped in a bearhug by Beast, only to be kicked free by partner Don Kent. The new tag team felt they had to win their first major battle and did everything in their power to insure their victory—even if they cheated!

the intricacies of tag team wrestling. Ideas he had saved but been unable to use were revealed. Listening to his excited voice, one could not help but sympathize with his plight.

Reading Kent's statements in a local newspaper, Chris Tolos could do more than sympathize. Don was saying what Chris always felt, as if he had been interviewed instead of Don. No sooner had he finished the article than Chris picked up the telephone. In less than a minute after reading his statements, Chris was talking to Kent.

The two men instantly became friends. Chris related how he felt his best years were when he teamed with his brother John. He reached his greatest fame and felt most alive in tag team wrestling. Don understood exactly what he meant.

As the two men compared notes and traded ideas, they grew more and more excited. It is not known which man suggested they form a tag team, but he was immediately taken up on the offer. A quick call to the promoter cemented the partnership.

Watching Tolos and Kent during their first day together in the gym

was reminiscent of colts frolicking in a field on the first day of spring. Ideas and maneuvers they hadn't done in years were suddenly being attempted. They didn't realize most other action stopped and all those present were staring at them. They were far too absorbed in experimenting with their craft to notice anyone else.

They were still there an hour after the gymnasium officially closed. The owner didn't have the heart to throw them out. Something extraordinary was happening and wrestling people never dare interfere at these times. They know only too well how rare it is to capture the magic which is this sport at its best.

When the team finally had its first match, many of the spectators were professional wrestlers. Many had traveled over 1,000 miles to see this bout. The grapevine had been buzzing about the team since that first day in the gym.

From the opening bell, nobody but the new team's opponents were disappointed. Beast and El Bassilo were the two determined to stop all this talk about Chris and Don. Instead, they revealed how remarkably well Chris and Don work together.

After the match, Tolos and Kent went back to the dressing room to celebrate and discuss the match. Listening to them, one couldn't help but feel this was the first chapter in one of tag team wrestling's greatest histories. □

BRUNO VS. DUNCUM

(Continued from Page 25)



In late action from their final encounter Sammartino has Duncum on the canvas from a fine takedown. Now the W.W.W.F. champion prepares to stomp his helpless victim in return for past cruelties.

match between Sammartino and Duncum can't believe Bobby has the gall to make these accusations. They remember a brutal battle which saw the challenger reeling

and stumbling across the canvas, blinded by the blood which flooded into his eyes. His forehead was a mass of cuts, and all agreed the only humanitarian thing to do was to end

his ordeal.

And the fact remains that after this brutalizing, Duncum left the area. Anyone who saw that match couldn't blame him. It would have finished a lesser athlete forever.

And no one can say Sammartino was sad to see him leave. Bobby had given him some of the bloodiest, toughest matches of his long career. There were times when Bruno was the one who had to be protected by the arena physician from sustaining permanent injury. Their series of matches will go down in wrestling history as a chapter in brutality and hatred unequaled in the annals of wrestling.

Chances are this is only the first series of matches between these two men. Sooner or later Duncum will again lust for the W.W.W.F. title and return to again confront Sammartino. What will occur during the next series is anyone's guess. The only thing one can depend upon is bloody brawling to the last second.

Though he's left the area for the present, Bobby Duncum will return to again challenge Bruno Sammartino. □

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CONFUSIN

(Continued from Page 31)



Mighty Igor uses his tremendous strength to torture foe, Black Gordman, in a crushing bearhug.

speaks some English. It is not rare to hear him shout in the middle of a bout, "Polish Power!"

The main difference between the two is external—Igor has a manager and Putski doesn't. Wherever Igor goes, Ivan Kalmikoff is always with him.

"I would never let Igor appear alone," says Kalmikoff. "I'd be afraid of what might happen!"

Kalmikoff tells fans how they can spot the difference between the two Polish grapplers.

"First of all, Igor is a little taller. But there is a difference in wrestling styles as well.

"Igor relies almost totally on his strength. He is also very fast. Putski is more of a ring technician. He uses many more holds and maneuvers than does Igor. Both, however, are great wrestlers.

"However," concludes Kalmikoff, "the easiest way to tell them apart is to simply study a picture of each man. You will clearly see the facial difference between the two."

So, for the benefit of wrestling fans, this magazine prints a large picture of both Igor and Putski. Study each picture, compare it with the other, and we are sure you will have no trouble telling the two grapplers apart in the future. □

STRONG ARMS

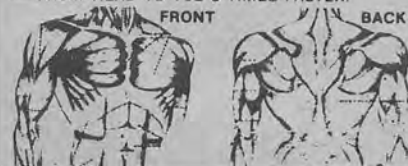
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SHEIK

(Continued from Page 27)



The soot wiped from his face, Johnny Valentine prepares to be stitched up and checked out.

Just then Creatchman, standing outside the cage, yelled "Flame!"

With an evil look in his eyes, Sheik rubbed his fingers together. Fire shot out of his hands! He went for Johnny's eyes but missed, the blast singeing Johnny's hair.

Valentine went crazy. Flinging The Sheik off him, he tried to roll away. The Sheik came again. This time the flames shot to within inches of Johnny's face. But they missed, instead igniting the canvas!

Suddenly the mat and part of the cage were in flames! Valentine, still groggy, writhed in pain. Creatchman passed The Sheik a can of lighter fluid. Holding Johnny's hair in one hand, Sheik squirted the fluid onto the fire, building the flames even higher!

Sheik grabbed Valentine, forcing Johnny's head closer and closer to the flames. The smoke began to obscure the grapplers as the fire grew. Finally, just as the flames licked at Valentine's face, the police came tearing into the cage with fire extinguishers. They threw Valentine and The Sheik out of the cage and put out the blaze.

But the blaze raging inside Johnny Valentine would not be so easily quenched.

Afterwards, in the dressing room, he sat and stared off into space, his charred and blackened face telling the story for him.

Twice Johnny's been burned by The Sheik. You can bet he won't let it happen a third time. ☐

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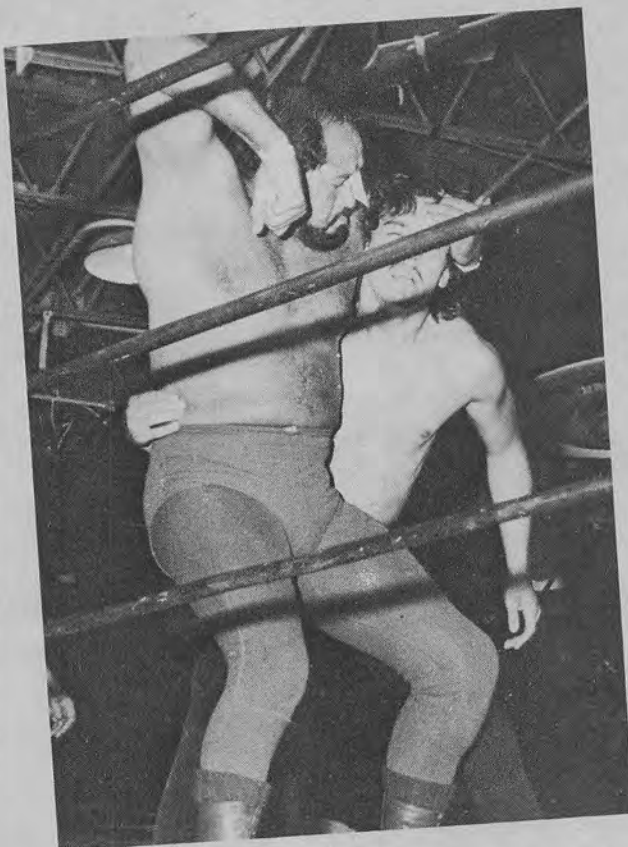
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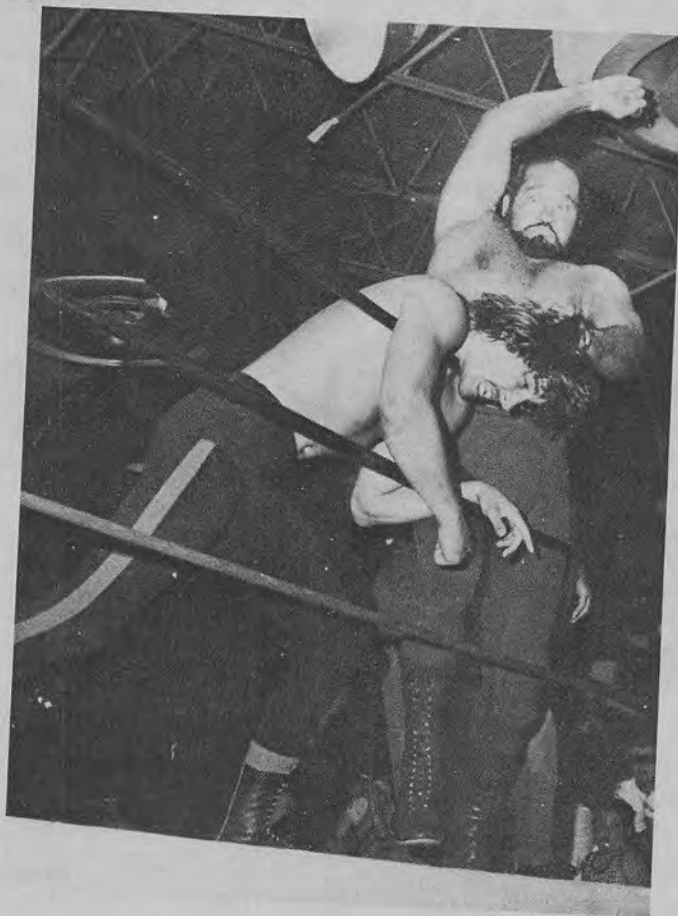
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STOP IT (Continued from Page 27)



Cyclone's fist pounds Bobby's face (left) with reckless anger and brutality. Tiring of simply punching, the veteran traps the young man on the ropes. As Lane's neck is raked along the rope, Negro slams his fist into Lane's head (below). Though he was at Cyclone's mercy, Lane still wants to have another chance to avenge his defeat. Friends are in agreement that Bobby should wait before he takes on Negro again.



association met to decide what punishment Negro should receive for attacking a referee. They were discussing fines and suspensions when Lane entered the room.

Addressing the commission, he said, "Gentlemen, I know what Negro did last night was unforgiveable. It's probably the duty of this body to severely punish him."

Then Lane took a deep breath and continued. "But he attacked *me*! Give *me* a chance to get back at him! Don't suspend him, let me wrestle him. Let me get the revenge for our sport. Negro doesn't understand fines and probably wouldn't obey a suspension. Let me give him a taste of what he does understand—pain!"

The men of the commission smiled indulgently, and one said, "Bobby, we understand your feelings and admire your courage. But Negro is a viciously skillful and seasoned veteran. You're only a rookie. Instead of punishing Negro, we'd only be giving him another victim to torture."

Lane continued to plead for his chance for revenge. But the commissioners were firm. Negro was fined and suspended for three weeks.

(Continued on page 54)



Cyclone enjoys torturing the brave young wrestler (above). Bobby was badly beaten in the match but wants to meet Negro again. Friends hope he waits.

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STOP IT

(Continued from Page 53)

A month later, Lane was in a TV studio for a televised bout. He entered the ring and waited for his opponent.

But instead of his scheduled adversary, in walked Cyclone Negro. Cyclone said later, "It's a good thing I showed up, 'cause somebody had tied up the guy who was supposed to wrestle. With him trapped in the dressing room, it's a good thing I showed up."

Cyclone entered the ring and growled at Bobby, "You wanted me, punk. Well, here I am."

"I'm ready," Bobby spat through clenched teeth. But Bobby was more optimistic than accurate.

When the other wrestler didn't appear, the television director said they had to have a match before time ran out. Against his better judgement, the referee approached Bobby.

"Look, kid," the referee said, "you're not ready to wrestle Negro. He's an animal and chances are I won't be able to control him. Nobody will call you a coward if you walk out now. It's up to you."

Bobby repeated what he told Negro, "I'm ready."

"Cyclone," he pleaded, "That's just a kid over there. I know better than to ask you for mercy. However, why not give the kid a break?"

Cyclone Negro laughed.

The bell sounded and Negro strutted to his young but courageous opponent. Lane was ready for anything but what happened. A powerful foot lashed viciously into the side of his head.

Bobby reeled from the crushing blow and lay draped upon the ropes. He was about to discover what Negro had learned from years of dirty wrestling. And he was going to learn the hard way.

Negro grabbed the semi-conscious man's hair and rubbed his neck along the ring ropes. The burning pain was terrible and Lane began to struggle. To stop the struggling, Negro sent his fist crashing down on the unprotected skull of Lane.

Negro, remembering the brawl that led to his suspension, used Lane's face and body as a target for his punches. His fist brutally crashed into the unprotected flesh.

But it was when Negro began to choke Bobby that the referee decid-



Negro hurls referee Bobby Lane to the canvas, angering the young referee/wrestler. Bobby begged for revenge immediately.

ed this was the time to stop it. He grabbed Negro's shoulder and tried to pull his hand away from the open throat.

"Dammit, Negro!" he screamed, "this has gone too far! Release the kid now!"

Cyclone laughed and released his hold. But he immediately trapped Lane in a piledriver. Within seconds, Bobby Lane's punishment was over.

The pain would last for weeks. When Lane went crashing to the mat, he separated his shoulder. He was forced to wear a cast for two months. The bruises caused by the punches disfigured his flesh for weeks. He couldn't move without stabbing pains reminding him of the massacre.

But Bobby Lane still wants revenge!

"I went through agony to discover what Cyclone Negro is really like," Lane says. "But I want to meet him again. And this time I won't be a patsy! There is nothing, not even the piledriver, that can't be countered. I'll learn how to beat him and in short time."

How many years will it take to be ready for Negro?

"Years? I figure I'll be ready to batter him around a ring in three, four months," Bobby says confidently. Then he remembers the brutal beating he recently took. "I'm probably rushing things," he adds, "but there's a lot of pain I want Negro to feel. And I want to be the one who makes him feel it!"

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Exclusive Inside Report

(Continued from Page 38)



Above: Gorilla Monsoon squares
off against an unexpected foe,
Muhammad Ali! Below: A punch by
Primo Carnera staggers wrestler
Gene Stanley in a mixed match.



For a quick ending a boxer must aim
for the head—a pathetically small
target compared to where a
wrestler can be effective.

A wrestler can use the oppo-
nent's entire body as a target. Legs,
arms, torso, neck, head—all can be
used to bring a foe to submission.
Maneuvers are common to take any
part of an opponent's body and send
him to defeat. The average wrestler
has a repertoire of over 150 man-
euvers at which he is proficient. In
a match, he will regularly use 30 to
50. In a tough brawl, he can employ
over 75 without thinking it extraor-
dinary.

It shouldn't be forgotten that a
wrestler is used to spending over 60
percent of his time off his feet. A
boxer on the canvas is like a fish out
of water. Punches thrown from a
prone position have perhaps 20
percent of the power a standing
boxer can command. Once a
wrestler gets a boxer off his feet—
and there are many ways he can do
that—the boxer is finished.

Any general will agree that the
best way to defeat an enemy is to
know his strategy. The average
wrestler knows a good deal about
boxing. Most boxers find the art of
wrestling beyond them. A wrestler
will know what a boxer is going to
do, while a boxer will be constantly
surprised by the wrestler's tactics.
Most boxers will be quickly con-
founded and then defeated.

Brawls are often won by the
(Continued on page 58)

of value. The real question is
whether the average wrestler can
defeat the average boxer. And let's
look at the facts.

As one goes over the various
ways a wrestler and a boxer can
attack, the objective observer can't
help but notice how limited are the
boxer's weapons. There are only
about 10 different punches. They
are effective only in injuring the
torso and head. Body punches take
a great deal of energy and must be
repeated often for effectiveness.
Only a few huge boxers can injure
immediately with blows to the torso.

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(THE WRESTLER con't.)

- ☐ May 1972
- ☐ June 1972
- ☐ July 1972
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- ☐ April 1972
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- ☐ October 1972
- ☐ December 1972
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(INSIDE WRESTLING con't.)

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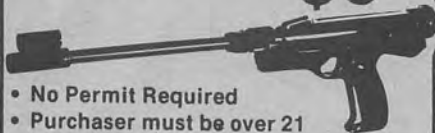
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Exclusive Inside Report

(Continued from Page 56)



Muhammad Ali was not the first boxer who tried to battle against a wrestler. Jersey Joe Walcott once tried his skills against Buddy Rogers (above), only to learn he couldn't win (below) when pitted against the tremendous skills the wrestler displayed that evening.



smartest and most resourceful foe. There is no question wrestlers are much more educated than boxers. An education gives a man a greater knowledge of options. The wrestler,

exposed to so much more knowledge, has so many more ways to defeat a man. As the boxer vs. wrestler battles are often free-for-all, the more intelligent partici-



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Former boxing heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles tries his hand at wrestling (above). In this picture, Charles practices a leg lock with Mark Webb.

pant must be given the edge.

Also, the edge must be given to the speedier opponent. With only a few exceptions, heavyweight boxers are a sluggish lot. They lack the agility possessed by even a mediocre grappler. Wrestlers have to work on their speed, develop graceful maneuvers. Boxers, awed by the big punch, rarely concentrate on moving their bodies gracefully. To them, trying to hit a wrestler will be akin to punching a phantom.

Of course, Ali and Inoki were not the first two men to pit the honors of their sports against each other. Buddy Rogers and Jersey Joe Walcott had a fabulous battle. Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Archie Moore have all taken on grapplers at one time in their careers. Louis and Ezzard Charles tried to become wrestlers and had only minor successes. But again, these were greats against greats. The controversy can only be decided when these battles are held regularly between average opponents in each sport.

When the time comes when the average grappler regularly confronts the average boxer, I think you'll find most of the matches won by wrestlers. Looking at the facts, I can't see how anyone can come to a different conclusion. ☐

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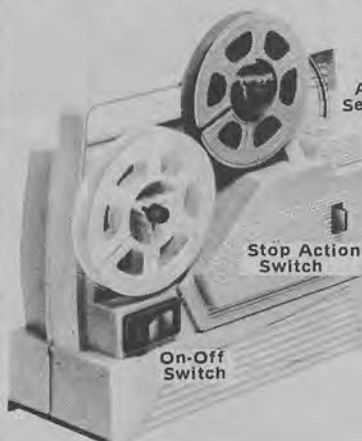
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PICTURE BOOK



Pic. Bk/Win 75



Pic. Bk/Spr 76



Pic. Bk/Sum 76



Pic. Bk/Fall 76



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Pic. Bk/Mar 77



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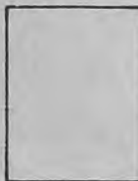
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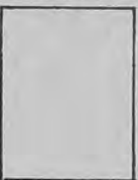
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BLOODIED ANDRE

(Continued from Page 35)



It didn't take too long for the fans to discover just what Hunter's signal had meant. Down the aisles ran Assassin #2, Professor Toru Tanaka, and Dudley Clements. Like a wolf pack attacking its prey, the four men swarmed over their opponent.

No referee could be expected to save the already bleeding Andre without help. Mr. Wrestling II, alerted about the massacre, rushed out to Andre's aid.

The masked star had barely leaped over the ropes, however, when Hunter attacked him with brass knuckles. It took only three loaded punches on the top of Mr. Wrestling's skull to make him reel backwards, blood stains spreading over his mask.

Yet, Mr. Wrestling II wobbled to his feet and began another assault, a desperate attempt to save Andre's life. However, before he faced any more punishment, Abdullah started raging through the crowd. Fans fled for their lives as he, along with his pack, stormed back to the dressing room.

By this time, other wrestlers had entered the arena. Bruno Sammartino rushed to Mr. Wrestling II's side. The masked grappler was in shock, reeling wildly. Bruno held the man until his senses returned and he could be taken back to the dressing room.

As for Andre, he slowly got to his

Above: A badly bleeding Mr. Wrestling II stands at the ring apron. He was wounded by brass knuckles. Below: Andre catches Abdullah in a surfboard and the madman from Sudan is in pain.





After falling unconscious from his wounds, Mr. Wrestling II is carried from the ring area.

feet, hurt and angry. The blood poured down his face, putting his outraged features into scarlet relief. Andre suffered much deeper cuts than Mr. Wrestling II, although the wounds were inflicted with less power.

When the riot subsided, and all the wrestlers had retreated to their dressing rooms, people tried to decide how much blood had flowed and from whom. When the last wave of wrestlers had flooded the arena, the brawl must have caused a great deal of blood-letting. Though no one was quite sure who had been wounded, almost everyone agreed it was Abdullah the Butcher who did most of the slicing.

The referee, harried and exhausted after trying to bring order to a riot, was positive it was Abdullah who caused most of the wounds.

"He was a maniac," the referee said with awe rather than anger. "the most astonishing person I've ever seen. I still can't believe any human being could attack with such fury and abandon. Who can possibly understand someone like that?"

As for Andre, after the doctor put eight stitches into his scalp, he swore revenge.

"I don't care," he stated, "if I have to wrestle Abdullah and Hunter in a handicap match! I want them! And after I get them, they'll be too badly beaten to ever wrestle again."

Abdullah and Hunter have made a very dangerous enemy. Of course, as they proved this evening, they are very dangerous enemies themselves! ☐

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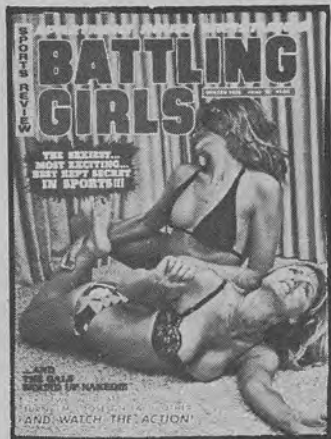
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WINTER 1975

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BACK DOWN

(Continued from Page 41)



Understandably, after the torture he was put through, Graham tries to make friends with Ivan in the hopes of catching the powerful Putski off-guard. But Ivan proves not to be gullible.

brought to his knees, grimacing in agony. Putski wasn't going to stop there. Graham was soon lying on his back, helplessly writhing on the canvas.

"I punish!" Putski sternly told Graham and no doubt Billy believed him.

From the armlock Ivan went to a brutal headlock. Billy's arms flailed against Putski's back but there was no strength in the pathetic punches. Graham's promises were proving to be hollow boasts!

With a mighty roar, Ivan lifted Billy by the head and threw the "Superstar" against the ropes. Billy slammed into the ropes and fell to the mat.

When his head cleared, Graham

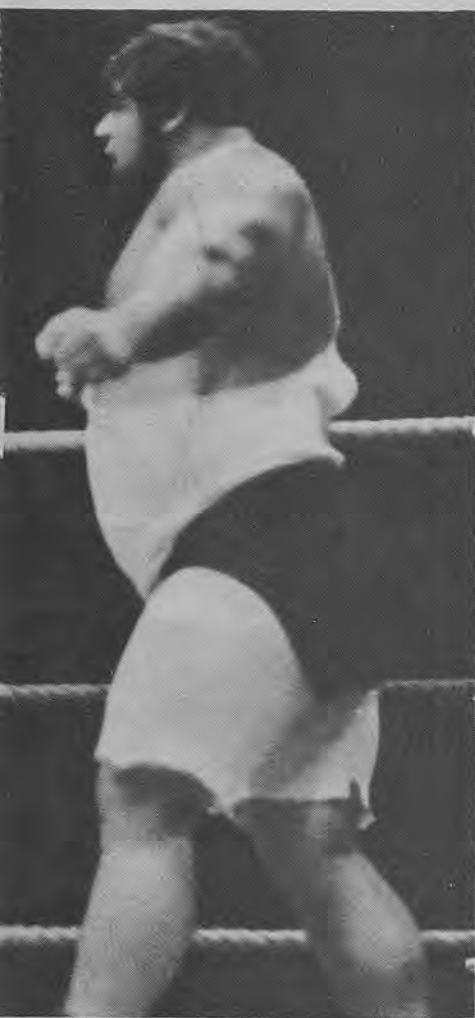
stood up and extended his hand in friendship to Putski. Ivan looked at the hand and innocently approached Billy. The men screamed for Putski to beware of Graham's treachery while the women hoped Billy would get out of the match alive.

The men needn't have warned but the women were right to worry.

Putski took Graham's hand but it was in anything but friendship! Ivan hurled Billy across the ring and Graham's head slammed into the ringpost.

Billy was stunned. And very worried. He had felt sure his guile would win the day if nothing else would. This was one child whom the "Superstar" wasn't about to fool. There was nothing Billy could do to overcome the Putski powerhouse. Graham had no choice but to flee. At least he tried to flee.

Ivan wasn't about to let him go. He captured Graham and pounded him into the ground. Ivan left Billy lying on the mat and strutted back



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to the dressing room while the arena shook with cheers from the men. The women were horrified, worried about Billy's welfare.

They needn't have worried. Graham was shaken but not injured. He shook the stars from his head and made a startling announcement.

"I can understand," Billy shouted, "why Putski ran from the arena. He was afraid I'd continue to humiliate him with my superior wrestling ability. If he can bring himself to wrestle scientifically, which I doubt, I will again beat him into oblivion. However, I doubt he has the courage to again wrestle Billy "Superstar" Graham!"

Even the women were stunned by this incredible statement. Billy had been brutally beaten but refused to admit it. The fans left the arena in awe of Graham's ego.

As for Ivan, he was happy to say afterwards, "I punished the bad man."

And so he had. ☐

"Look who's smiling now!"

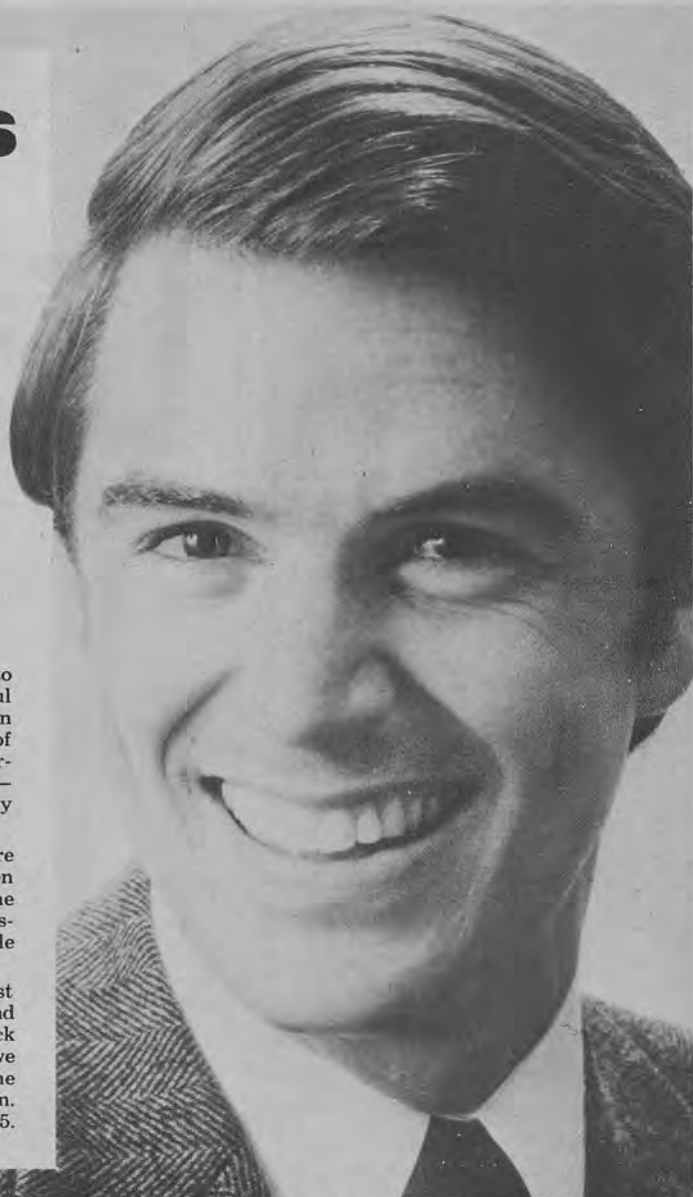
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